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Springerville Ranger District Trail Guide

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests



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Welcome . . . to the Springerville Ranger District Trail System

Road Access

Access to trailheads is by way of maintained forest roads. During the winter and periods of heavy rainfall, these roads may be impassable or difficult to drive. Some higher elevation roads in the Springerville district may not be passable until May, depending on the winter snowfall and soft muddy roads following snowmelt. Avoid getting stranded and causing resource damage to these roads by waiting until the road surface has hardened. Contact the Springerville Ranger District at (928) 333-6200 for more information on road conditions.

Safety

The Springerville Ranger District trail system includes trails from 3,500 feet in elevation to nearly 11,000 feet at the top of Escudilla Mountain, Arizona's third highest peak. Most trailheads are above 6,000 feet.

Weather conditions are variable throughout the year. Be prepared for changing conditions. Packing a rain and wind shell is a good idea at higher elevations during the summer. Thunderstorms often develop during summer afternoons. High elevation trails are often quite cool, especially when shaded. Lower elevation trails may be quite hot.

Be alert to your condition, stay hydrated, and know the signs of both heat illness and hypothermia.

Let someone know where you are going and when you will be back. Use trail registers when available.

Know your own ability and the abilities of those in your group. Go at the pace of the slowest member of the group to prevent illness or injury.

Altitude Sickness

The air is thinner at higher elevations, meaning that due to reduced pressure, the air at higher elevations is less oxygen rich than at lower elevations. This means you may feel differently at high elevations than at the elevation to which you are accustomed. Be alert to how your body responds to altitude change. Altitude sickness—also known as acute mountain sickness (AMS)—is most often encountered beginning around 8,000 feet (the town of Alpine is just over 8,000 feet). Altitude sickness can affect anyone, regardless of fitness level. If you feel you are experiencing the symptoms of AMS, the best treatment is to stop and rest. While resting, breathe deeply and consume quick energy foods such as fruit juice, dried fruit, energy bars or candy. It is also important to stay hydrated. If your symptoms do not subside, start

back down to lower elevations, being careful to breathe deeply and not exert yourself. At elevations higher than found in the Springerville district, altitude sickness can become very severe and even be life threatening. If symptoms continue to persist once you've reached lower elevations, consider medical attention.

Symptoms of Altitude Sickness

The most common and often the first symptom is headache, often severe, (but this can also be a sign of dehydration from breathing thin, dry air at high elevations) combined with:

- listlessness, drowsiness, and fatigue
- lightheaded feeling or dizziness
- loss of appetite
- nausea or vomiting

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is not just a cold weather concern and should not be dismissed, even during the summer season. Most cases of hypothermia occur during summertime and with temperatures well above freezing. Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It often strikes summer hikers who are exposed to wet and/or windy conditions, both of which rob the body's core of heat. Fatigue plays a major role in robbing the body of warmth during these conditions as well. If you are growing tired from your hike and are hiking in windy conditions, you may be at risk, especially if you are

wet from rain, snow, or sweat. Avoid cotton clothing except in warm, dry environments. Cotton, when wet, does not insulate. In fact, it can rob the body of vital warmth. Choose wool or synthetic materials for base layers in most conditions.

Symptoms of Hypothermia

- shivering (first and warning sign)
- fatigue
- loss of coordination
- incoherence, mumbling, stammering
- hallucinations (advanced symptom)
- pale appearance
- a warming sensation (can be a sign of very serious hypothermia, check other symptoms carefully)
- goose bumps on skin
- drowsiness

Treatment for Hypothermia

If you detect or suspect hypothermia, several quick steps are essential. A drop of 1 or 2 degrees of core body temperature can be very serious. Body temperature decreases of 3 degrees or more can be fatal. Recognizing the onset of hypothermia quickly and treating it effectively may save a life. Warming a hypothermia victim is crucial, since they cannot produce enough heat on their own. Get the victim out of the cold, wind and/or rain quickly. Give warm nonalcoholic drinks and high energy foods to the victim. Get the victim out of any

wet clothes and into dry clothes. Direct skin-to-skin body contact is an effective technique for re-warming a hypothermia victim. Blankets, winter clothing and sleeping bags are good tools to employ as well, but remember, these items are designed to trap body heat, not produce heat of their own for re-warming. The best treatment is prevention. Wear a hat, as 40 percent of your body heat is lost through the head. Be prepared for the conditions and try to stay dry.

Lightning

Afternoon thunderstorms producing lightning strikes are common in the high elevations of the White Mountains. These storms can develop and move fast. Get a local weather report before you go. You can access weather reports and forecasts from the Apache-Sitgreaves Web site (www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf) and click on “current conditions.” During threatening weather avoid lakes, meadows or open areas, exposed ridgelines, fence lines and peaks. Do not stand near a large tree or other tall feature. Avoid standing in wet areas. If caught in a lightning storm, assume a crouch position with your feet flat on the ground. If you have a camping mattress or are carrying a pack, put that on the ground below you and assume the crouch position on top of the item. These items can insulate you from a nearby strike.

The “Ten Essentials” for Venturing into the Back Country

The “ten essentials” have expanded to include more than 10 items and is found in various forms. Consider bringing these items that can be essential to getting through a difficult situation in the back country.

- ✓ map
- ✓ compass (a GPS does not replace a compass)
- ✓ whistle
- ✓ fire starter or tinder kit
- ✓ waterproof matches
- ✓ flashlight (with spare batteries)
- ✓ first aid kit
- ✓ extra food (such as energy bars)
- ✓ pocket knife or multitool
- ✓ space blanket (lightweight emergency shelter)
- ✓ extra clothing (lightweight rain shell)
- ✓ insect repellent
- ✓ sunscreen and sunglasses
- ✓ water (or purification method)

If You Get Lost . . .

Stay calm. The most important thing you can do is to keep calm, take a few deep breaths, and stay positive. Remember the acronym “STOP” (stop, think, observe, and plan). Sit down, have something to eat or drink, and assess the situation. Think back to when you last knew your location . . . what have you done since? Backtrack to that last known location. Look for landmarks. Use your map and compass if you have them and don’t second guess your compass. Blow a whistle if you have one and others may be in the area. If you are still lost, think about staying put and waiting for help. Most lost hikers are found within 24 hours. Think about shelter, staying warm and dry, and staying hydrated. Keep your energy up by snacking. Let others know where you are going and when you’ll return before you leave so they will know where to look if you are lost. Use trail registers and stick to your planned route.

Trail Ratings

Trail ratings take into account the length of trail, terrain, and elevation change. What may be rated as a moderate hike at lower elevations may be more challenging here in the Springerville district at higher elevations. Know your limits and ability.

Seasonal Considerations

Most of the trails in the Springerville district are available May through October for those hiking or riding a bicycle trail. In winter, cross-country skiers should consider local weather and inquire locally at the Springerville Ranger District by calling (928) 333-6200 or by checking the forests’ Web site at www.fs.fed.us/r3/asnf. Links to current weather conditions, road conditions, trail information, and general recreational information can be found there.

Be aware that many forest roads are not passable until late April or early May as winter snowmelt makes the roads very soft and muddy. Use common sense when traveling to trailheads. Call ahead for more information. Getting lost, getting stuck and being stranded on a forest road in early spring is not a pleasant experience. Many cell phones do not work in the area, and those that do often have spotty reception deep within the national forest.

Highway 191 south of Alpine, also known as the Coronado Trail, is not plowed during storms or nights and weekends. Use caution traveling during winter in this area.

Wildlife

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests are home to abundant wildlife. Species include elk, mule deer, wild turkeys, and javalina. Black bears, mountain lions, and Mexican gray wolves are found in the area as well. While conflicts are generally rare, these animals can be dangerous if startled, surprised, or if they feel you are a threat to their young or their food. Hike with a partner and make some noise to avoid surprising wildlife. Conversational voices work well. If you do have an encounter with wildlife, keep a few things in mind. Keep children close at all times. Stay together in a group. Do not run. Running may trigger a chase instinct in some predators. Make noise to scare the animal off. In the rare instance of being attacked by a predatory animal, fight back. If you are hiking with a dog, keep in mind that you must maintain control of your pet at all times in the national forest and that pets may attract wildlife, including large carnivores.

Leave No Trace Principles

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you will visit.
Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.

Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.

Repackage food to minimize waste.

Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns or flagging.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams. Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

In popular areas, concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.

Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when wet or muddy.

Keep campsites small.

Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.



In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.

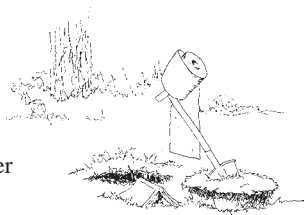
Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.

Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and personal hygiene products.

To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.



Bring plastic bags with you to pack out trash. Carry out things that cannot be burned completely if you have burned your trash. Eggshells, orange peels, and aluminum foil should be packed out. Don't forget the little things such as gum, wrappers, cigarette

butts and fishing line. These are often found around campsites and popular hiking areas. Don't bury any trash in the ground or place it in vault toilets. Animals will dig these items up, possibly causing a safety problem for the next visitor to that site. Always leave your site cleaner than when you found it.

Leave What You Find

Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch, cultural or historic structures and artifacts.

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them.

Avoid introducing or transporting nonnative species.

Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the back country. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.

Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.

Keep fires small.

Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.

Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, and then scatter cool ashes.

Respect Wildlife

Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.

Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.

Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.

Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.

Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.

Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering horses and pack stock.

Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.

Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Trail Etiquette

All Trail Users

- Please leave plants and flowers where you find them so that others may enjoy them.
- Please be considerate of other trail users so that all may enjoy the experience.
- Avoid wet or muddy trails.
- Keep to the right side of the trail. Save the left for passing. Always announce your intentions when passing.
- When in a group, travel single file and don't block the trail. Allow room for other users.
- Leave all gates as you found them. If a sign says "Keep Gate Closed," always do so.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints.
- All users yield to saddle stock.
- Do not harass wildlife or livestock.



Backpackers and Hikers

- Move off the trail wherever possible for less mobile trail users.
- When meeting horseback riders, step aside from the trail, preferably downhill, and talk in a normal voice to the riders. This calms the horses.
- When hiking cross-country, spread out, avoid paths, and walk on rocks or snow when possible.

Mountain Bikers

- Take the initiative and yield first to horses and hikers.
- Ride in small groups and in single file when passing.
- Ride in control and pass others slowly.
- Teach proper riding techniques to younger riders.
- When passing equestrians, ask for instructions and use caution.
- Know what areas are open for bicycling use and stay on designated trails or roads. Riding off trails damages resources and threatens wildlife.
- Never ride in designated wilderness areas. They are officially closed to bicycles.

Equestrians

- Stock tied directly to trees can destroy trees and turf and should never be done for more than short periods. Use tie lines.
- Clean up all horse manure or hay in camps, at trailheads, and in loading areas. Carry equipment to scatter it and smooth the areas.
- Never tie horses within 200 feet of lakes, streams, or springs.
- Stock should not be left unattended for more than a few hours.
- Practice minimum impact techniques of tying, grazing, and travel.
- Lead rather than herd unrestrained stock to help avoid erosion.



- Travel at a safe speed and be especially careful when visibility is limited.
- Remember that trail stock can be intimidating to other trail users, so communicate to those you meet.
- Do not ride too close to the horse in front of you.

Fishing Information

Fish Species

Apache Trout

Apache trout, along with the endangered Gila trout, are Arizona's only native trout. Efforts are underway to help restore viable Apache trout populations in the White Mountains. These golden colored trout often have dark spots and a "cutthroat" slash of red under their lower jaw. Fishing techniques to catch Apache trout are similar to those that work best for rainbow trout. Streams will be made available for sport fishing as populations recover in each area to allow for fishing of Apache trout. Portions of the East and West Forks of the Black River hold Apache trout. If populations are not sufficient to support fishing, the recovery stream area may be closed until the population recovers to fishable levels. Check with Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) regulations regarding Apache trout.

Arctic Grayling

These nonnative fish were introduced to the White Mountains in 1940. The Arctic grayling's prominent dorsal fin easily distinguishes it from other species. Graylings are usually between 12 and 16 inches in length. They are found in just a few small lakes in the White Mountains and are better associated with northern mountain fisheries so they are unique to find in Arizona. Arctic grayling feed on aquatic insects and insect larvae. Wet and dry flies work well for these fish. Woolly buggers, woolly worms, and Coachmans often work well.

Rainbow Trout

Nonnative rainbow trout were introduced just prior to 1900. Rainbows are stocked in many White Mountain area lakes and streams. They are olive colored on their backs, and silvery with a pinkish band and dark spots on their sides. They can range from under 8" to over 30" for record size rainbows. Their fight makes them enjoyable to catch. Rainbow trout feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects primarily, but larger rainbows can feed on small fish. Flies work very well, as do small spinners or even worms. Remember, think small with your offerings to trout and use light lines.

Brown Trout

These exotic European imports are not stocked, but do reproduce naturally in some White Mountain lakes and streams. They have olive-brown backs and yellowish-brown sides with spots on their back and sides. Brown trout are voracious eaters and will eat insects, larvae and smaller fish, including smaller trout. Fish for brown trout as you would rainbow trout. They can range from 6" to over 28" and are more easily caught during fall spawning.

Brook Trout

Brook trout are nonnative and were introduced in the early 1900s. Like brown trout, they are fall spawning and most easily caught near shore during this time. The brook trout is a grayish-green fish with irregular wavy markings changing to pinkish spots in a bluish ring lower on its sides. "Brookies" feed on terrestrial and aquatic insects and are fairly easily caught on flies, small spinners, or worms. Brook trout are usually 6" to 20" in length.

Cutthroat Trout

Cutthroats are also nonnative fish introduced around 1900. They often look quite similar to rainbow trout but have a distinctive red or orange slash mark under their lower jaw.

The fins on the cutthroat are heavy with dark spots that continue down the sides of the fish. Cutthroats are generally 6" to 22" in length and, while not found often in area streams, the AZGFD stocks cutthroats

in several White Mountain lakes. They feed on both aquatic and terrestrial insects primarily and can be caught using typical rainbow trout fishing tactics. A variety of artificial flies works best, but small spinners or worms on a small hook work well also. Remember; think small offerings when going for trout.

Apache Trout Restoration

Apache trout and Gila trout are the only two trout species native to Arizona. Apache trout were once very plentiful in the White Mountains in the early 1900s. Introduction of nonnative trout reduced the Apache trout population significantly. Today, after long recovery efforts, Apache trout again swim the waters it first called home. Threats to Apache trout remain, so some streams in the White Mountains are managed to keep nonnative trout from mixing with Apache trout. You may notice fish barriers in some areas or area restrictions where Apache trout are just beginning to be restored.

Apache trout are found nowhere else in the world, and now once again, anglers can fish for them in designated state waters or on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation with proper licenses. It was the White Mountain Apache Tribe who took the first steps to preserve the Apache trout in the mid-1950s by restricting fishing for the species. Later the Apache trout was federally listed as an endangered species, and in 1975 multiagency restoration efforts led to the Apache trout being downgraded to threatened status. Through the efforts of many agencies, organizations, concerned citizens and anglers, Apache trout

are nearing the recovery goal of 30 distinct populations, and may be on the way to becoming the first federally listed fish species to come off the endangered species list by means of recovery. Anglers can play an important role in the recovery of the Apache trout by treading lightly on streambanks to prevent sedimentation and erosion in these sensitive habitats.

Partnerships

Some of the trails built on the Springerville Ranger District were planned and built in partnership with Apache County and were funded through grant monies from the Arizona Department of Transportation's ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act) and Arizona State Parks Heritage Trail funds.

Map Legend



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14

Distance: 19 miles

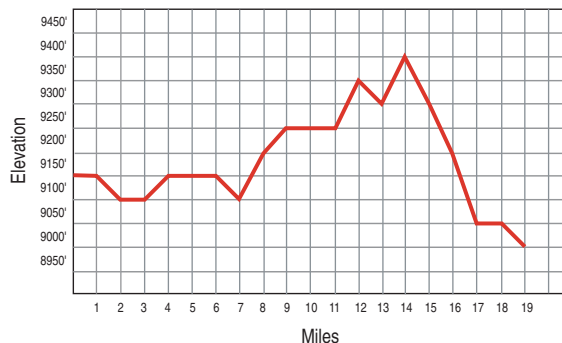
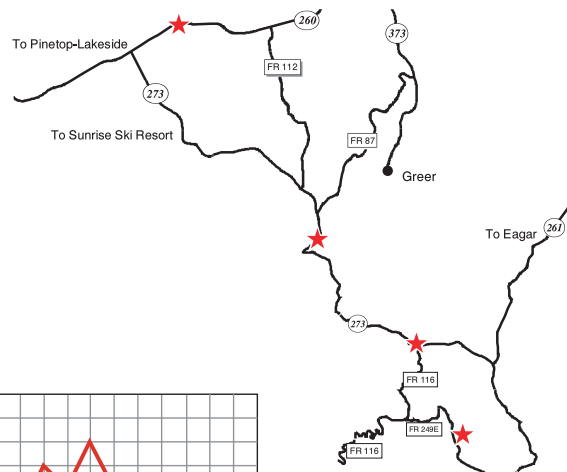
Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Mountain Biking — Moderate
Equestrian — Moderate

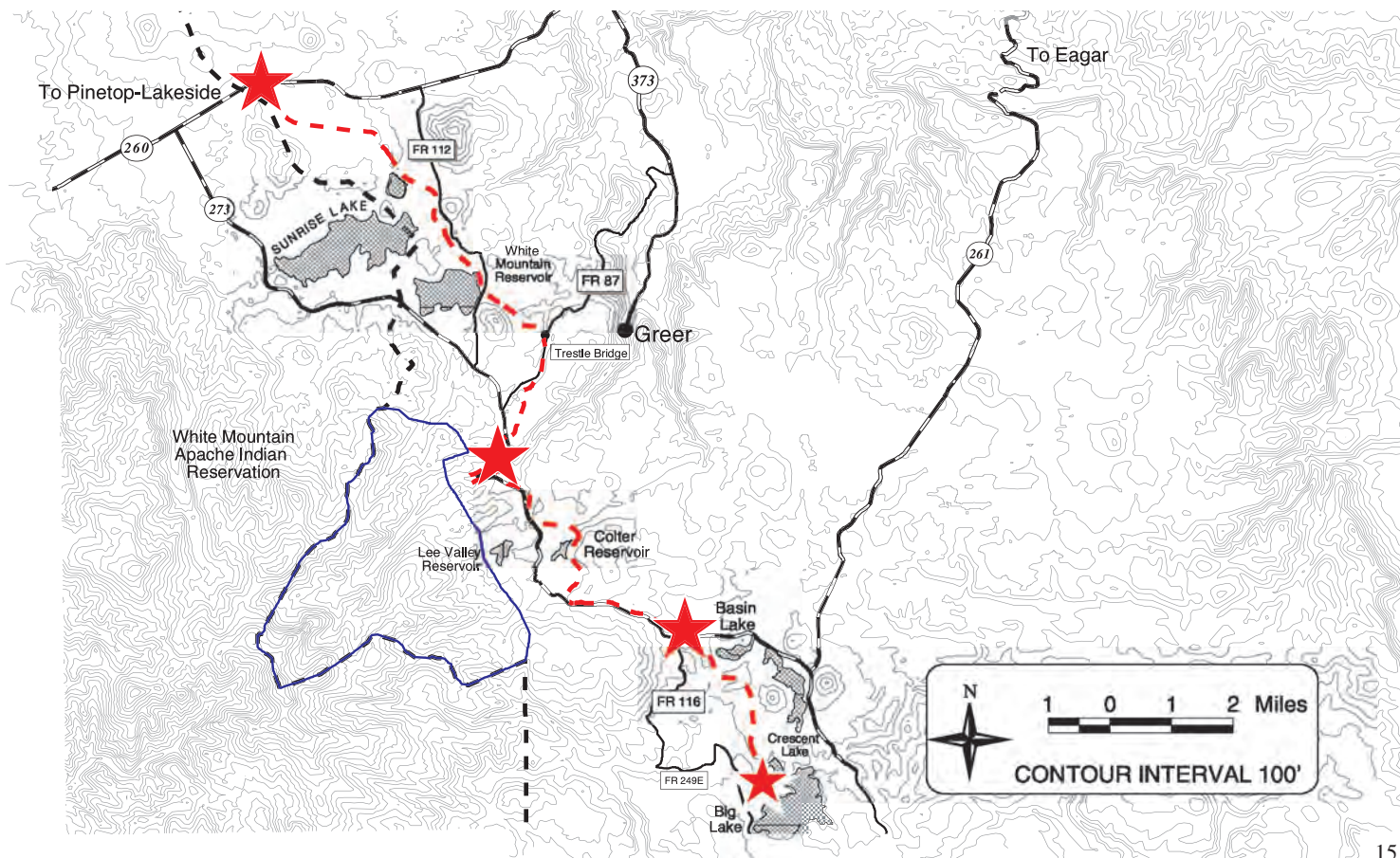
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

USGS Topo Maps: Big Lake North
Green Peak
Mount Baldy

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 15.7 miles. The trailhead is on the left.

Trail Description: The entire trail follows a historic railroad right-of-way offering gentle grades and beautiful scenery. A unique feature of this trail is the 80-foot-long trestle bridge similar to bridges used at the turn of the century. A separate trail guide for this trail is available at the Springerville Ranger District office.





West Baldy Trail • 94



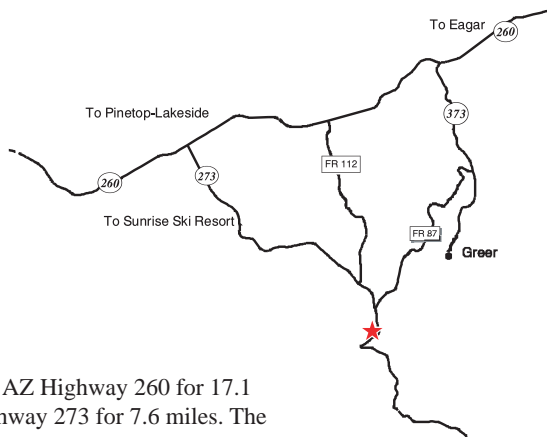
16

Distance: 7 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Equestrian — Moderate

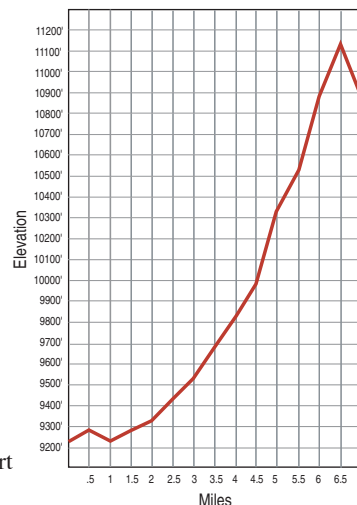
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers
Large Parking Area

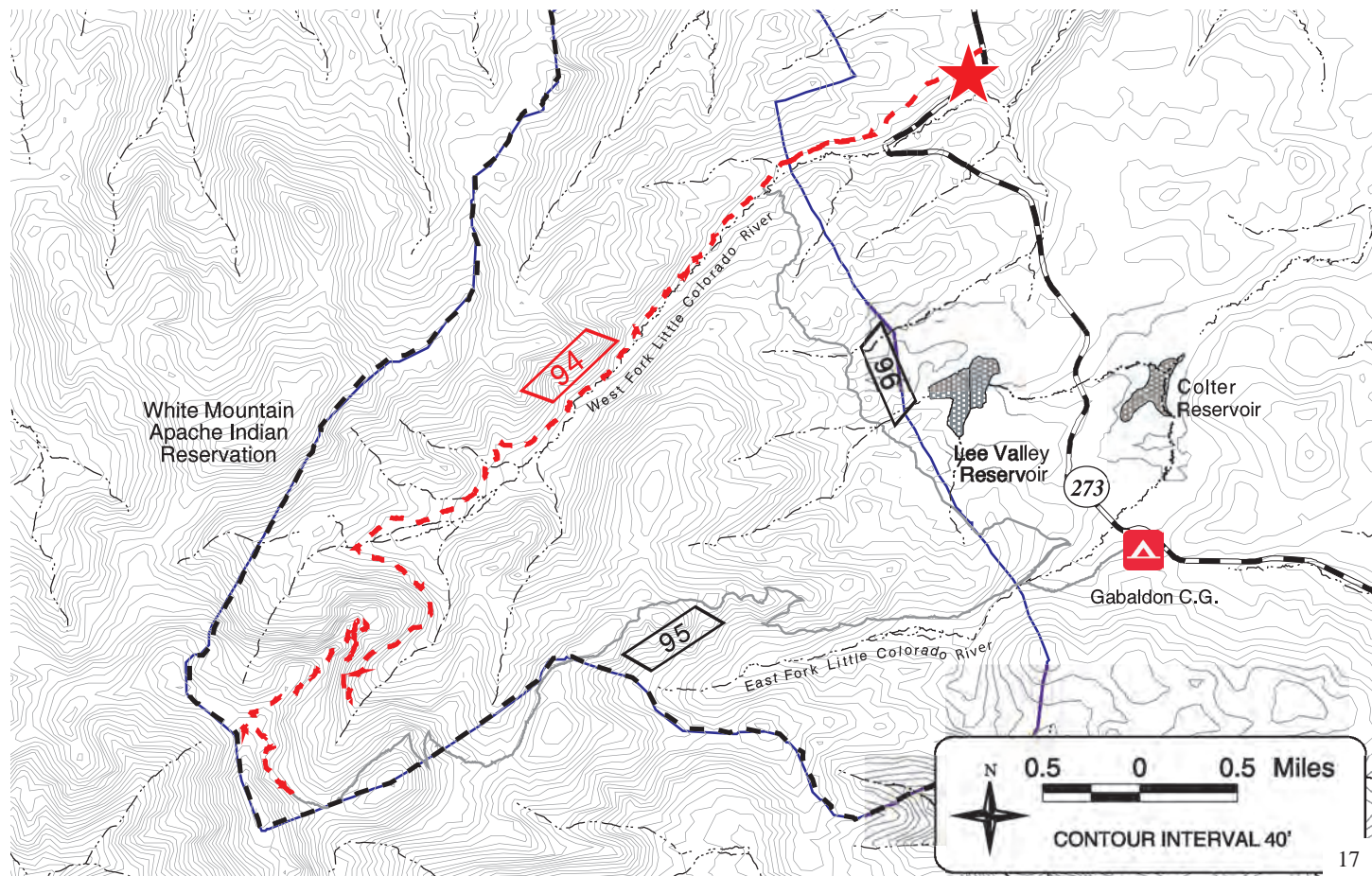
USGS Topo Maps: Mount Baldy
Big Lake North



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 17.1 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 273 for 7.6 miles. The trailhead is on the right. You can also use this trailhead for the Railroad Grade Trail (Trail 601) and West Fork Trail (Trail 94).

Trail Description: The trail crosses meadows and winds through a thick forest setting dominated by spruce, fir, and aspen. As you work your way up, the trail becomes a series of switchbacks. West Baldy Trail merges with East Baldy Trail in a saddle near the reservation boundary below Mt. Baldy. Mt. Baldy Wilderness maps are available at the Springerville Ranger District office. The last half of the trail to the summit of Mt. Baldy is on Fort Apache Indian Reservation land. This area has been closed to all non-tribal members by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council. Group size is limited to 12 people per hiking and equestrian group, and 6 people per group for camping.





East Baldy Trail • 95



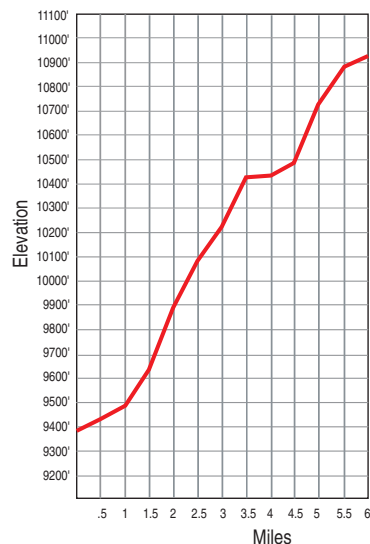
18

Distance: 6 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate with some strenuous portions
Equestrian — Moderate

Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

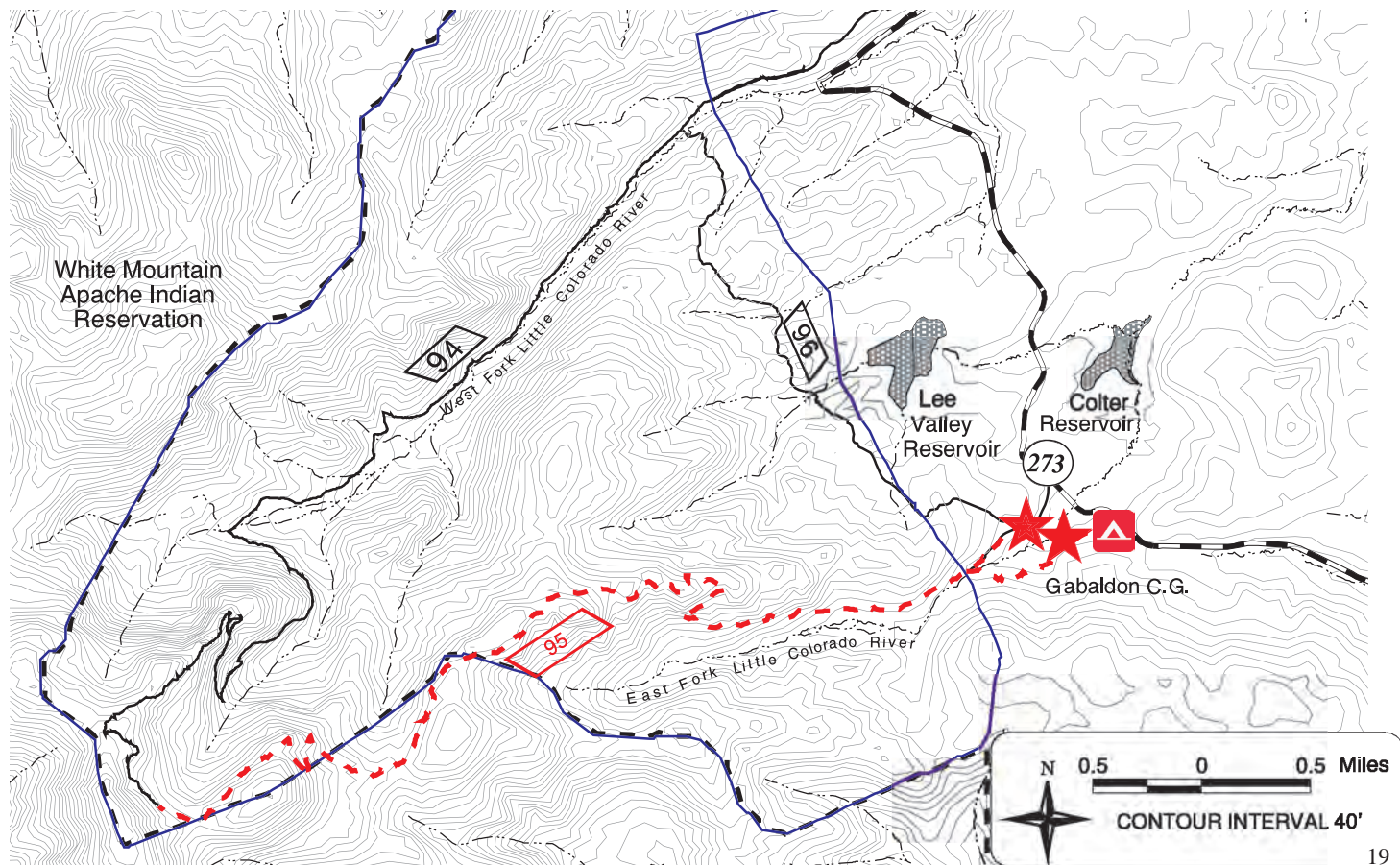
USGS Topo Maps: Mount Baldy, Big Lake North



Trail Access: The best parking is at the rear of Gabaldon Campground (FR 113G). From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 17.1 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 273 for 10.9 miles. The trailhead is on the right.

Trail Description: This trail offers the opportunity to enjoy meadows, sandstone boulders, and stands of mixed conifer. There are some strenuous portions to this trail, making the panoramic views a true reward. This is a wilderness trail where rules pertaining to wilderness areas apply and are enforced. Mt. Baldy Wilderness maps are available at the Springerville Ranger District office. The summit of Mt. Baldy is on Fort Apache Indian Reservation land. This area has been closed to all non-tribal members by the White Mountain Apache Tribal Council. Group size is limited to 12 people per hiking and equestrian group, and 6 people per group for camping.





Mt. Baldy Crossover Trail • 96



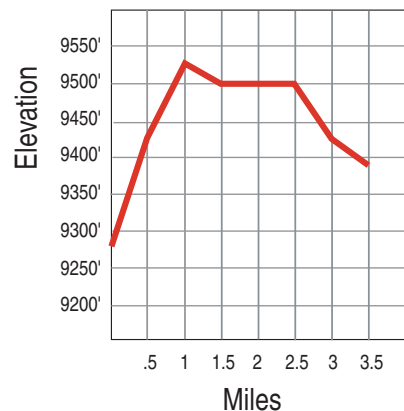
20

Distance: 3.5 miles

Difficulty: Hiking – Moderate to Difficult
Equestrian – Moderate to Difficult

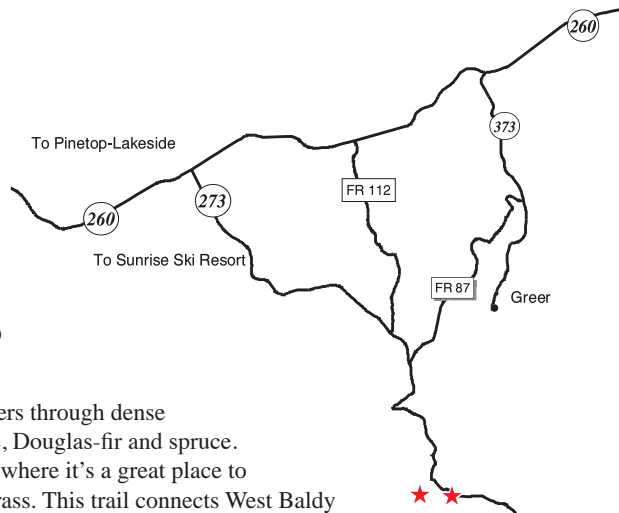
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

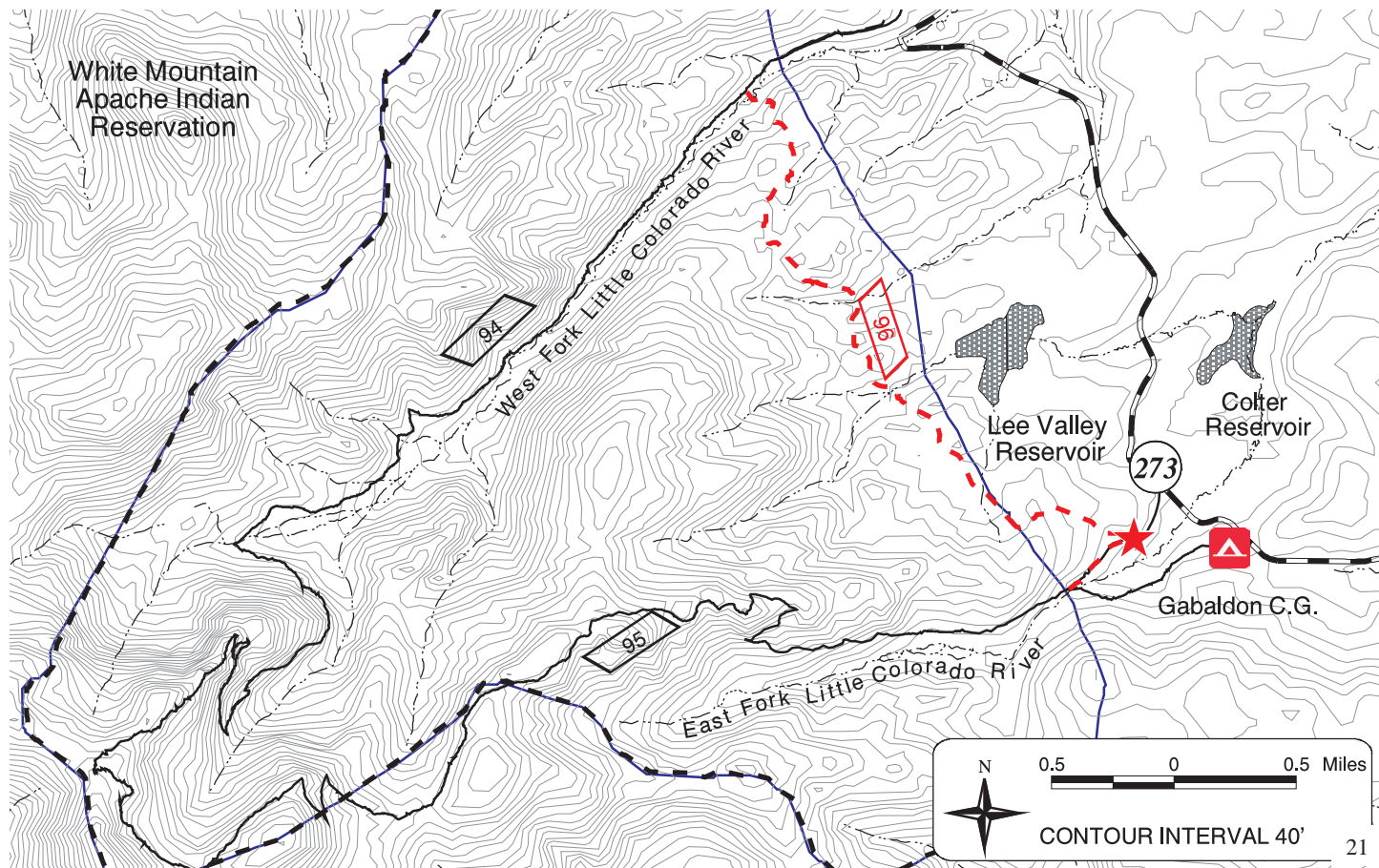
USGS Topo Maps: Mount Baldy
Big Lake North



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 17.1 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 273 for 10.9 miles. The trailhead is on the right.

Trail Description: The trail meanders through dense forest with large, old ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and spruce. Portions cut through open meadows where it's a great place to watch wildlife nibbling on the tall grass. This trail connects West Baldy Trail to East Baldy Trail. Mt. Baldy Wilderness maps are available at the Springerville Ranger District office. Maximum group size is 12.





West Fork Trail • 94



22

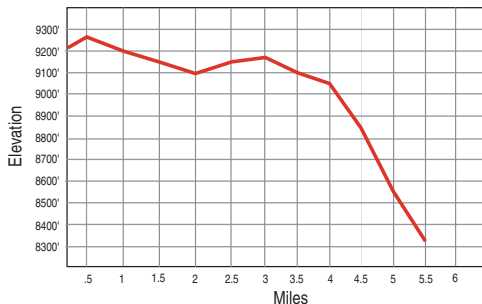
Distance: 5 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Mountain Biking — Moderate
Equestrian — Moderate

Trailhead Parking: Limited (1-2 cars)

USGS Topo Maps: Greer
Big Lake North

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 9.6 miles to AZ Highway 373. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 373 for 4.3 miles. Turn right on Osborne Road. The trailhead is .2 mile on the left.

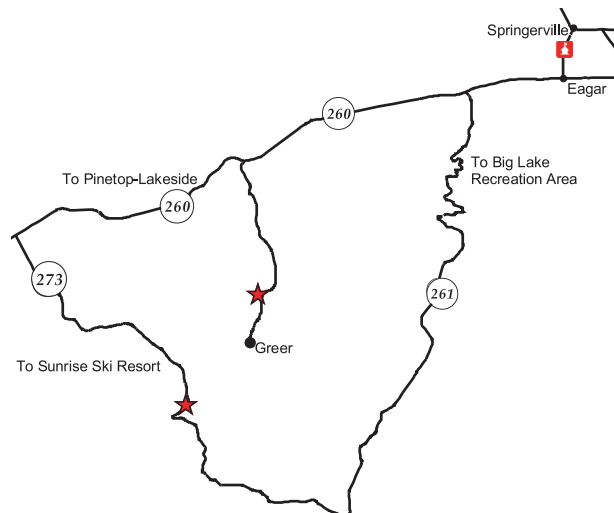


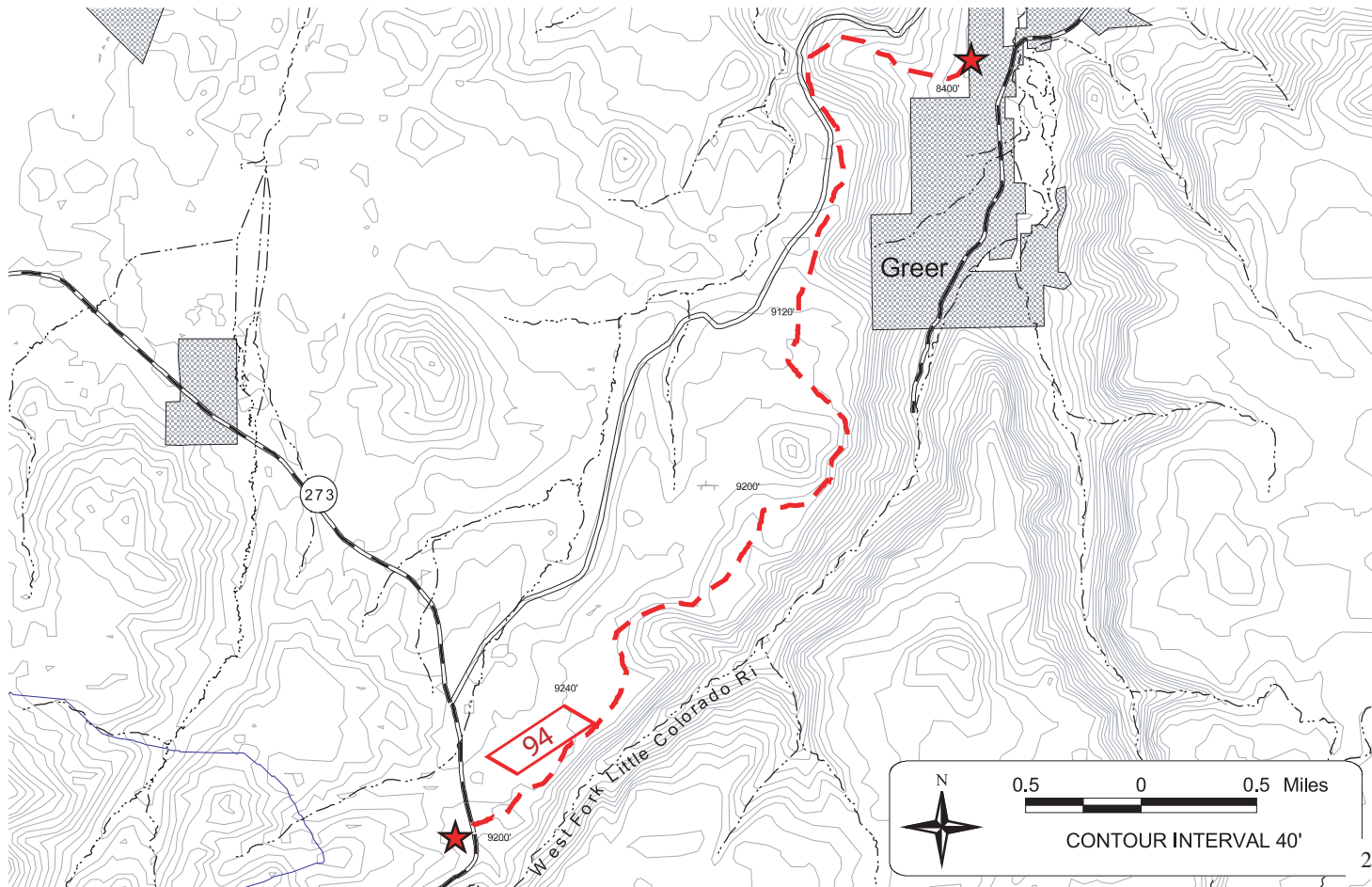
Trail Description:

West Fork Trail travels through a checkerboard of forests and meadows.

Look for wildlife

browsing at the forest edge. You can even enjoy the wild roses and raspberry bushes growing near the tank along the trail. West Fork Trail continues on into Mt. Baldy Wilderness where it becomes the West Baldy Trail.





East Fork Trail • 95



24

Distance: 7.5 miles

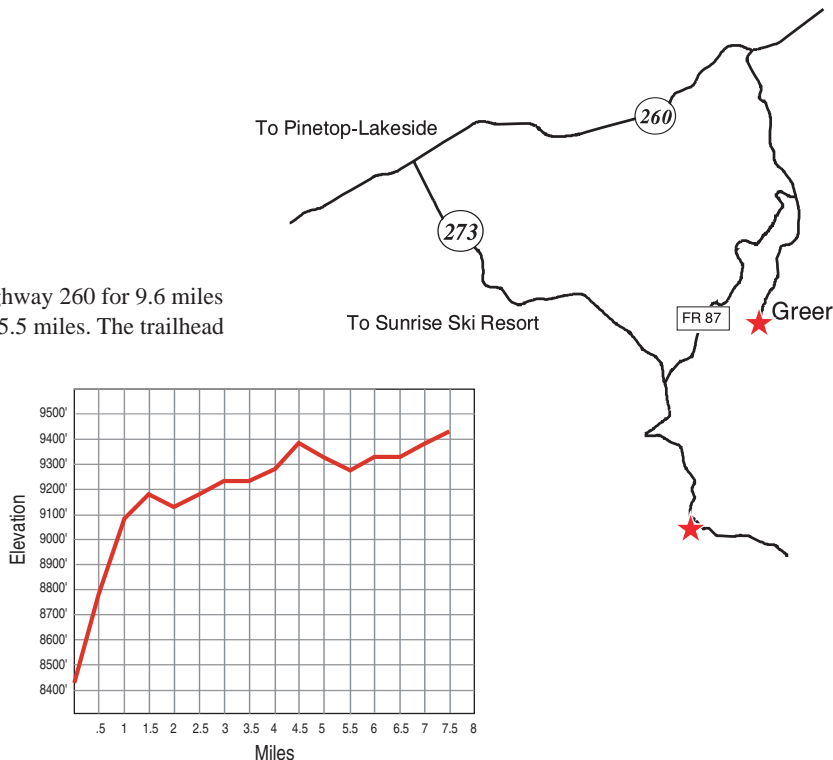
Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Equestrian — Moderate

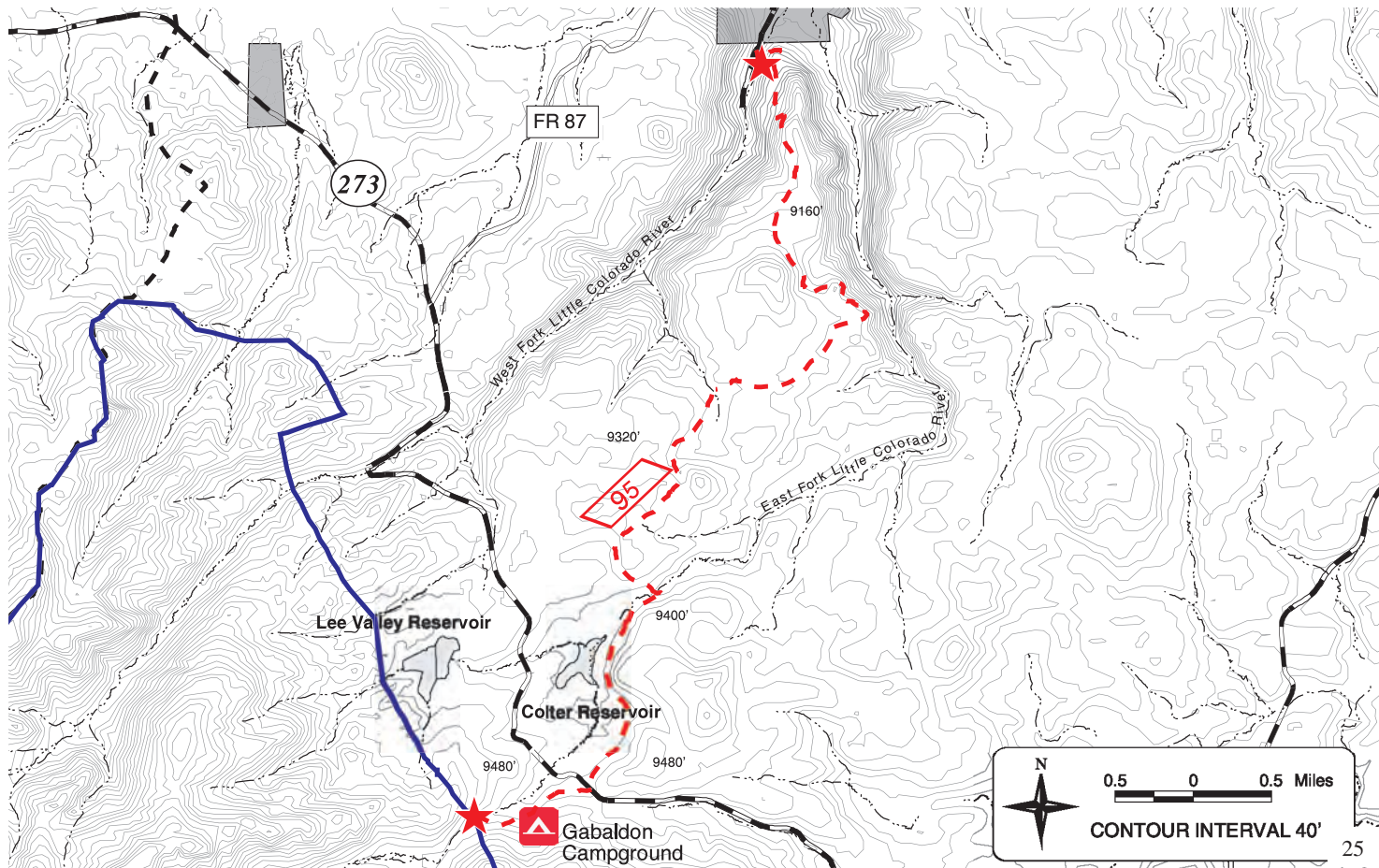
Trailhead Parking: Limited (5 cars)

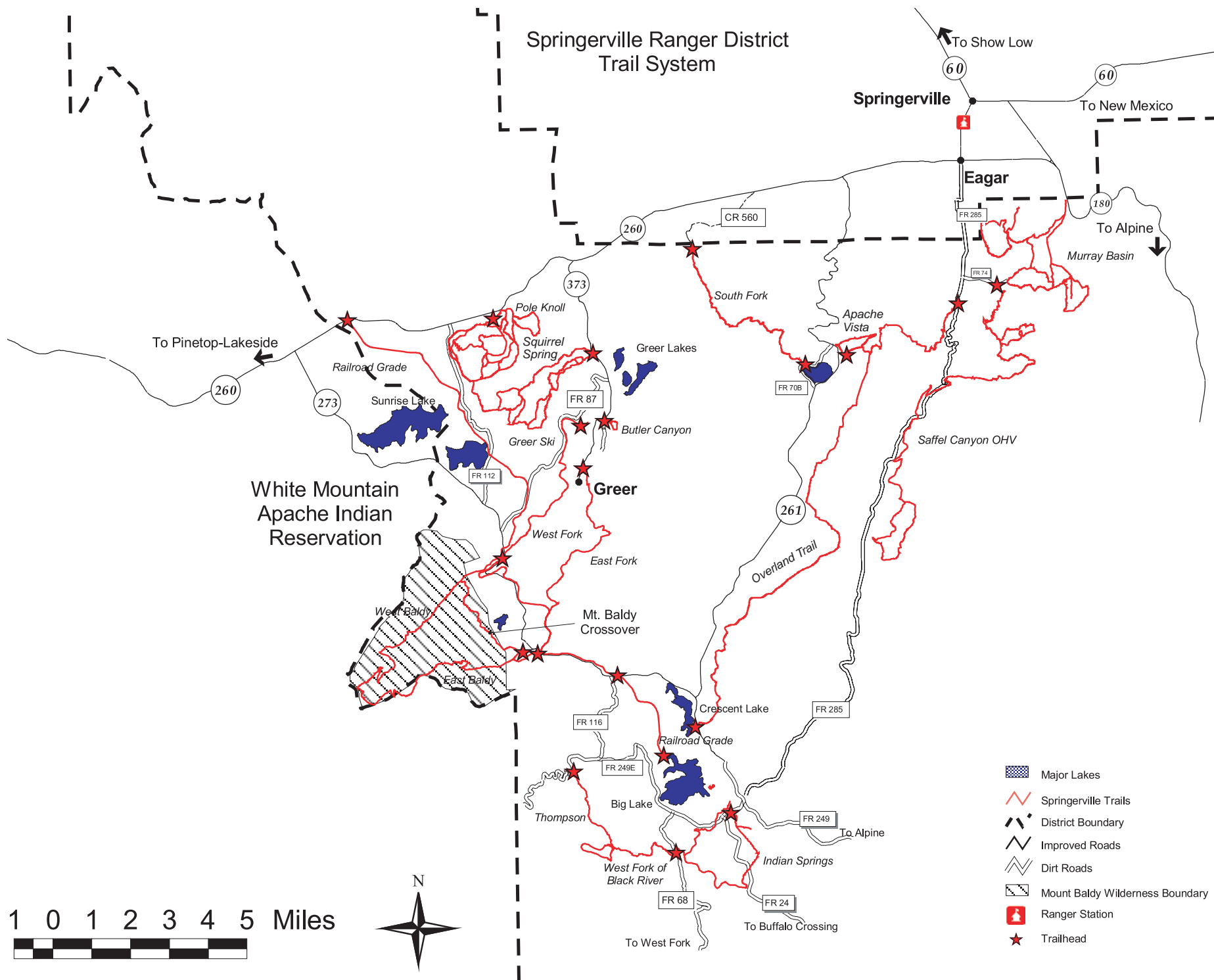
USGS Topo Maps: Greer
Big Lake North

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 9.6 miles to AZ Highway 373. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 373 for 5.5 miles. The trailhead is on the left.

Trail Description: After crossing the West Fork of the Little Colorado River, the trail climbs steeply 600 feet in under an eighth of a mile toward Amberon Point. Once at Amberon Point, the trail continues on a more reasonable grade. This trail offers a variety of mixed conifer and open meadows, and continues past Gabaldon Campground into Mt. Baldy Wilderness.







Pole Knoll Recreation Area • 602



28

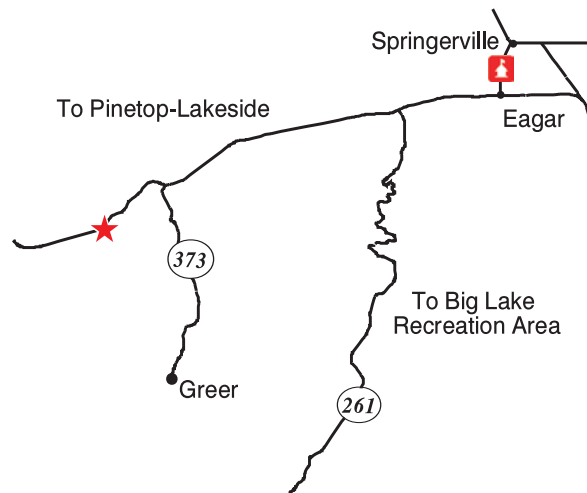
Distance: 18 miles for all trails
Trails vary in length, difficulty, and terrain

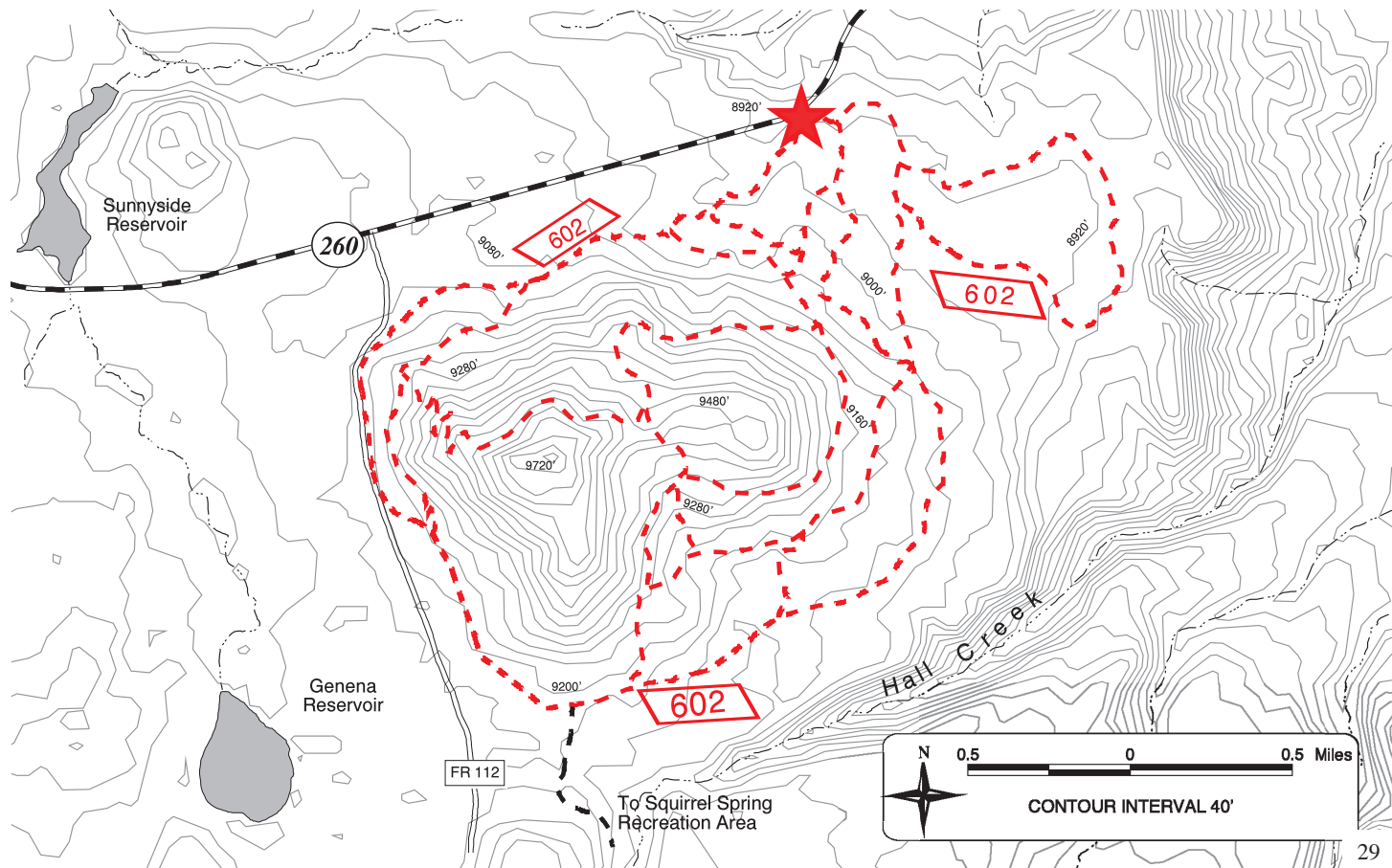
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

USGS Topo Maps: Greer
Greens Peak

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 12 miles. The trailhead is on the left.

Trail Description: The majority of the trail system follows old logging roads. It is a wonderful maze of trails with a great mix of challenges. The elevation ranges from 8,900 feet to 9,600 feet. In the winter, the trails can be used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. A more detailed trail map including trail name and length is available at the trailhead.





Squirrel Spring Recreation Area • 331



30

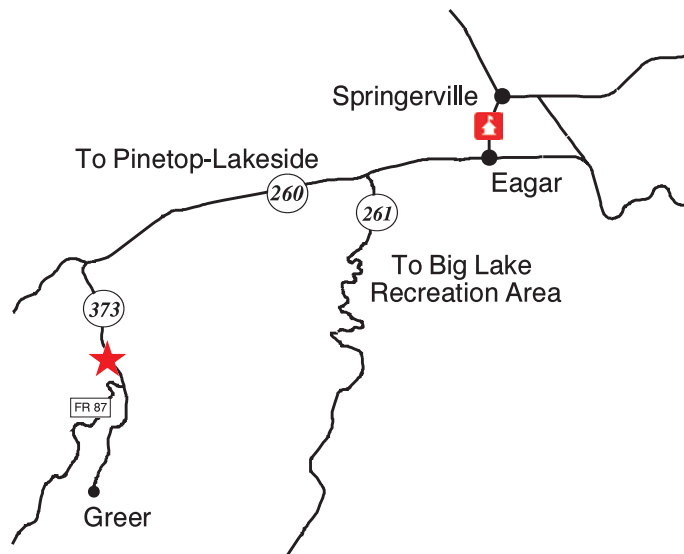
Distance: 14 miles for all trails
Trails vary in length, difficulty, and terrain

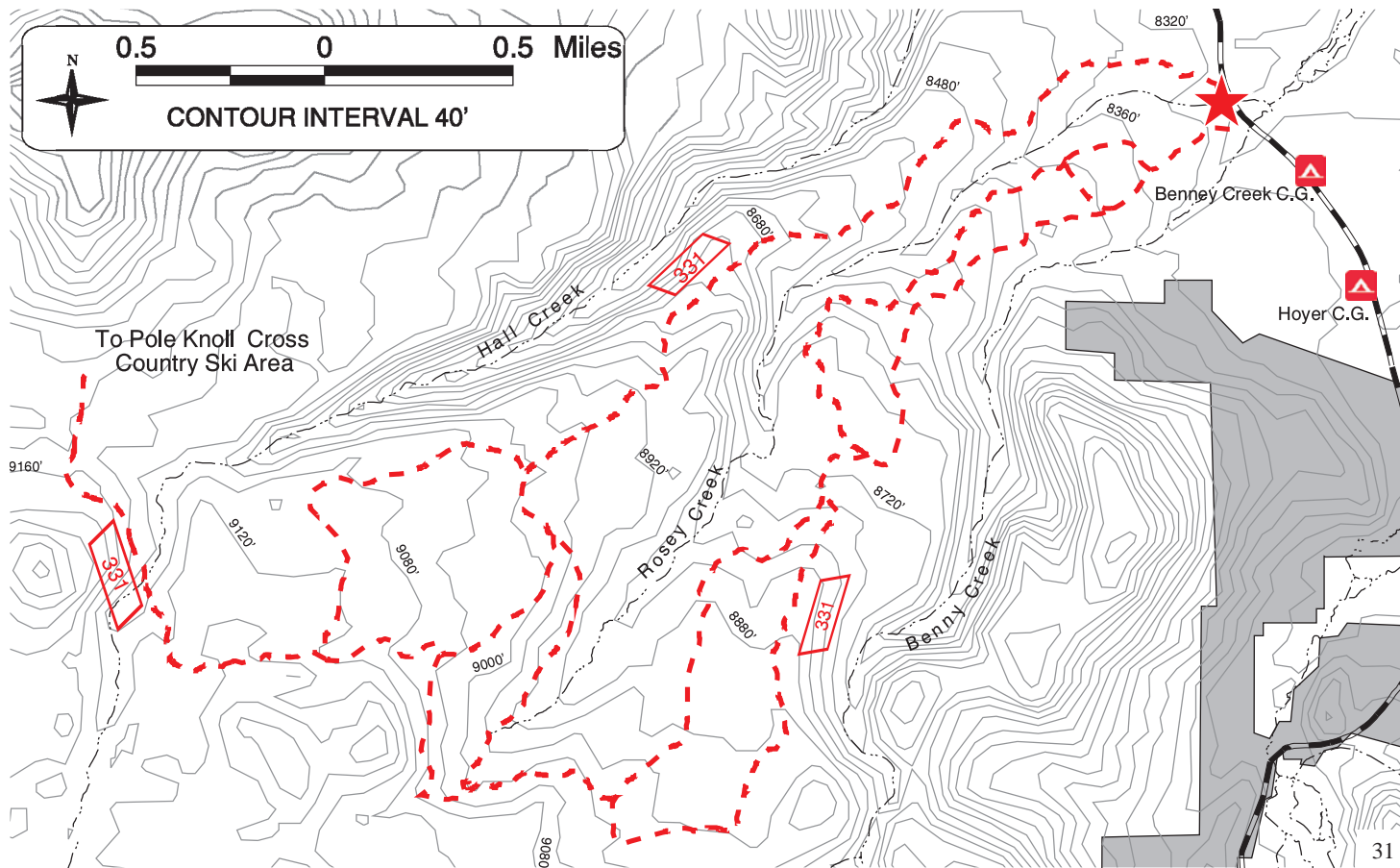
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

USGS Topo Maps: Greer
Greens Peak

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 9.6 miles to AZ Highway 373. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 373 for 2.2 miles. The trailhead is on the right.

Trail Description: The majority of the trail system follows old logging roads. If you are staying at Hoyer or Benny Creek Campground, it would be a great place to take a quiet walk in the woods. In the winter, trails can be used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.





Butler Canyon Trail • 98



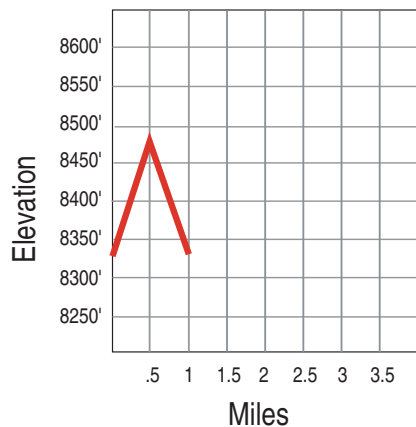
32

Distance: 1 mile

Difficulty: Hiking — Easy
Mountain Biking — Easy

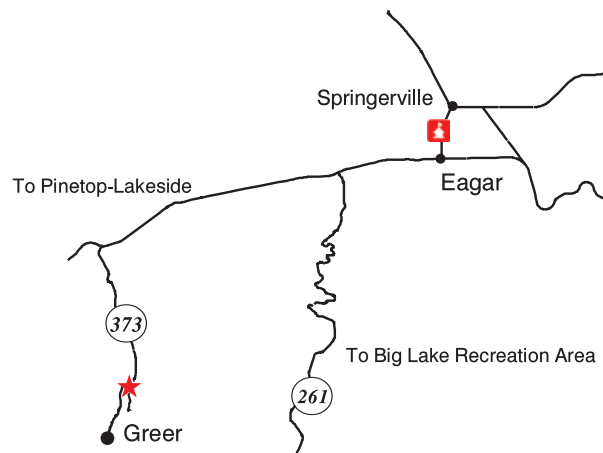
Trailhead Parking: Limited (5-6 cars)

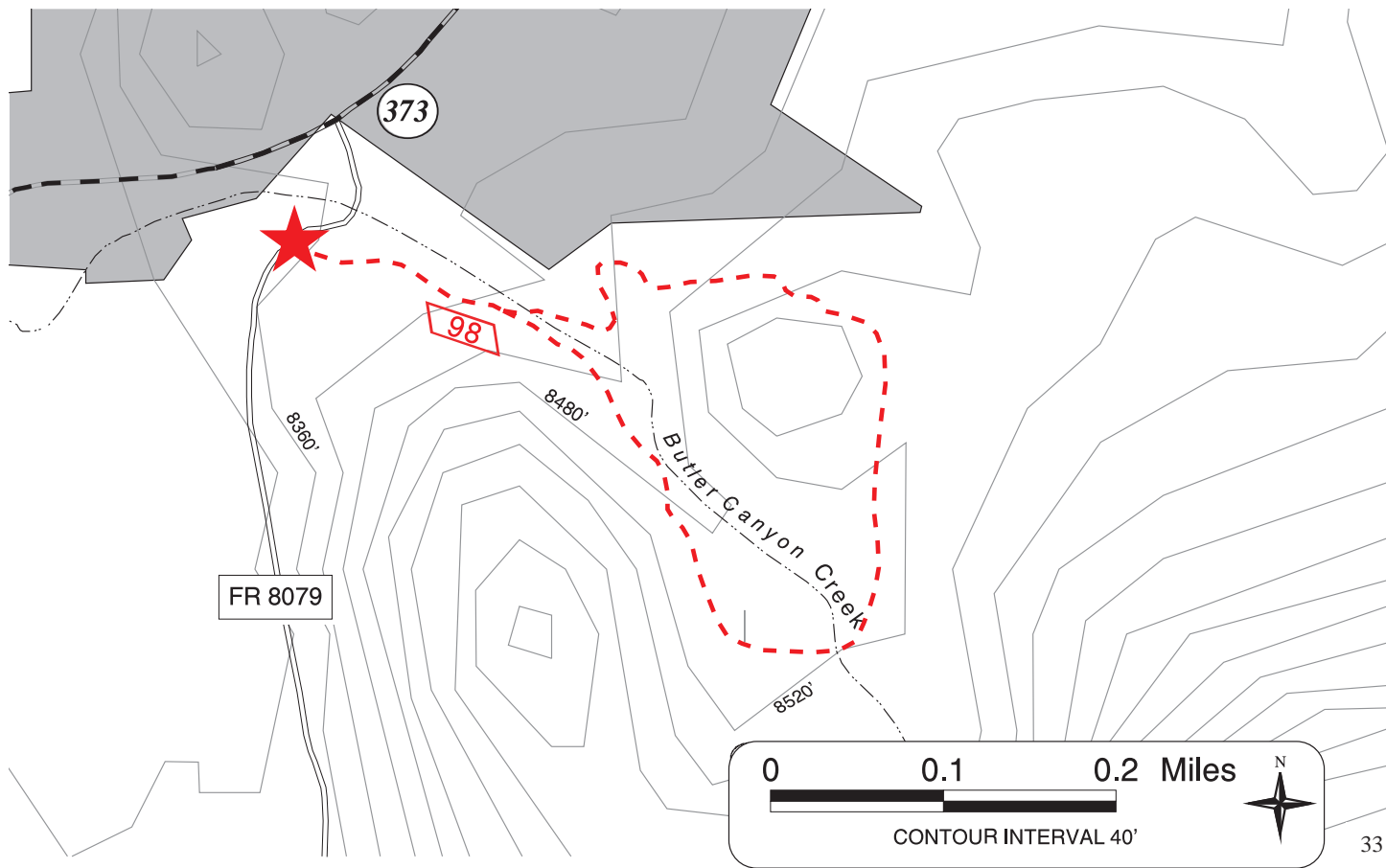
USGS Topo Maps: Greer



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 9.6 miles to AZ Highway 373. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 373 for 4 miles. Turn left on County Road 1121 and the trailhead parking is on the right.

Trail Description: Butler Canyon Trail is a self-guided nature trail. Pamphlets are available at a sign-in station at the trailhead. The trail travels up Butler Canyon for about one-half mile, then crosses a small stream before looping back.





Thompson Trail • 629



34

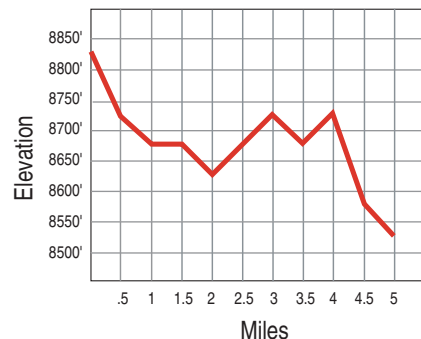
Distance: 5 miles (including Trail 630)

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate

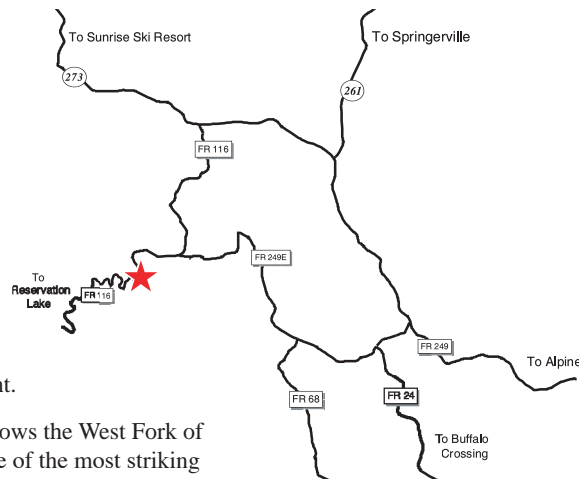
Trailhead Parking: Limited (5-6 cars)

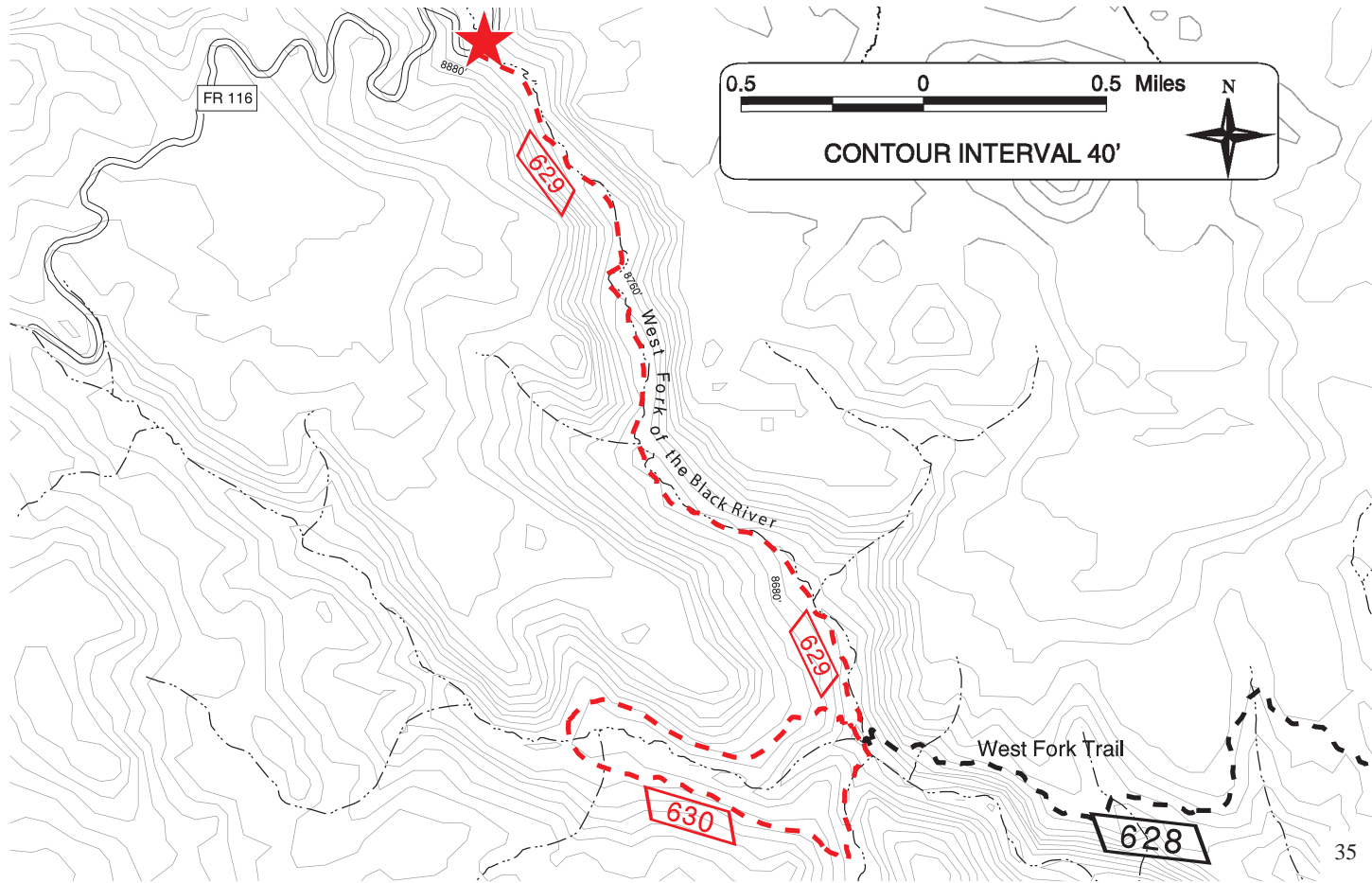
USGS Topo Maps: Big Lake North
Big Lake South

Trail Access: From the stoplight in Eagar, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 2.8 miles to AZ Highway 261. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 261 for 16.3 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn right (north) for 2.1 miles to FR 116. Turn left (south) on FR 116 for 3.5 miles. The trailhead is on the right.



Trail Description: Thompson Trail follows the West Fork of the Black River and passes through some of the most striking country to be seen on the district. This is high country; snowed in for nearly half the year and characterized by steep, timbered canyons and frequent meadows. Horses and bicycles are not allowed on Thompson Trail, but are allowed on the historic railroad grade that is located west of Thompson Trail. The railroad grade travels adjacent to Thompson Trail one-third to one-quarter up the west slope, rather than in the drainage. Trail 630 can be accessed from Thompson Trail.





West Fork of the Black River Trail • 628



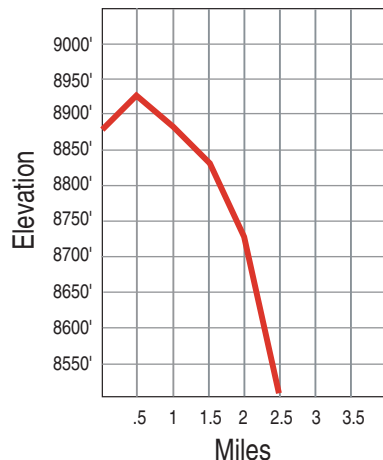
36

Distance: 2.5 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Mountain Biking — Moderate

Trailhead Parking: Limited (3-5 cars)

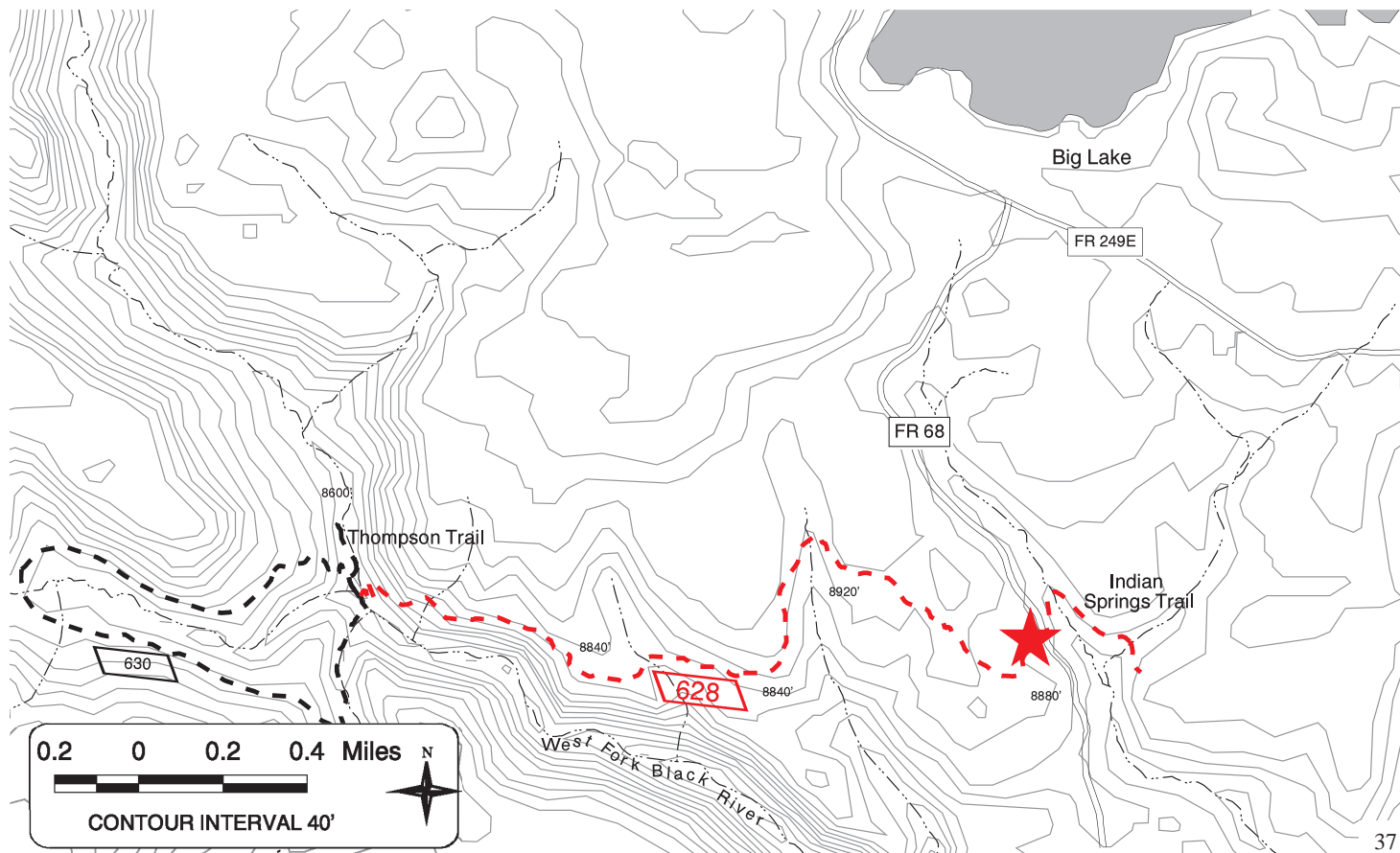
USGS Topo Maps: Big Lake South



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 2.8 miles to AZ Highway 261. Turn left (southwest) on AZ Highway 261 for 16.3 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn left (south) for 2.8 miles to FR 249E. Turn right (west) on FR 249E for 1.9 miles. Turn left (south) on FR 68 and the trailhead is 1.1 miles on the right.

Trail Description: The trail begins on a fairly level grade and takes you through stands of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine and aspen, with some meadows thrown in for variety. This trail connects to Thompson Trail (630), and Indian Spring Trail (627). Horseback riding is not allowed on the West Fork of the Black River Trail.





Indian Spring Trail • 627



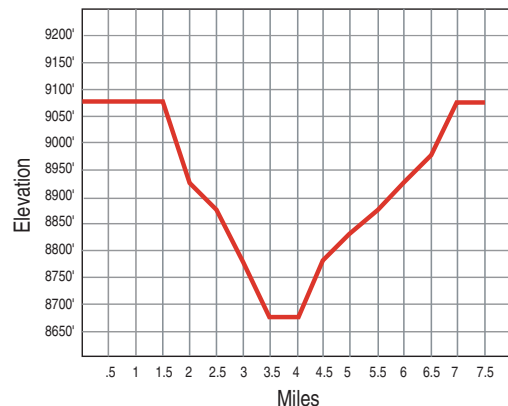
38

Distance: 7.5 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Mountain Biking — Moderate

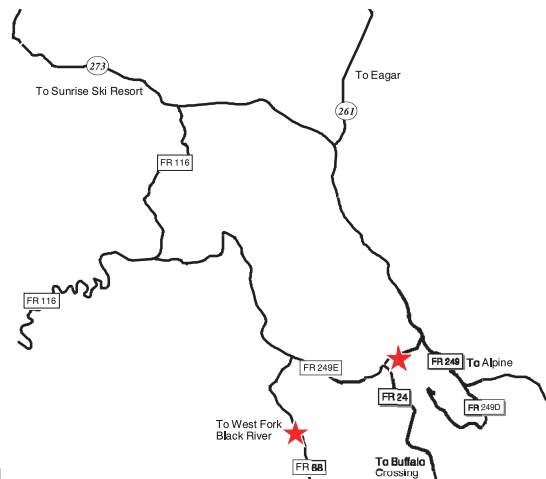
Trailhead Parking: Limited (5-6 cars)

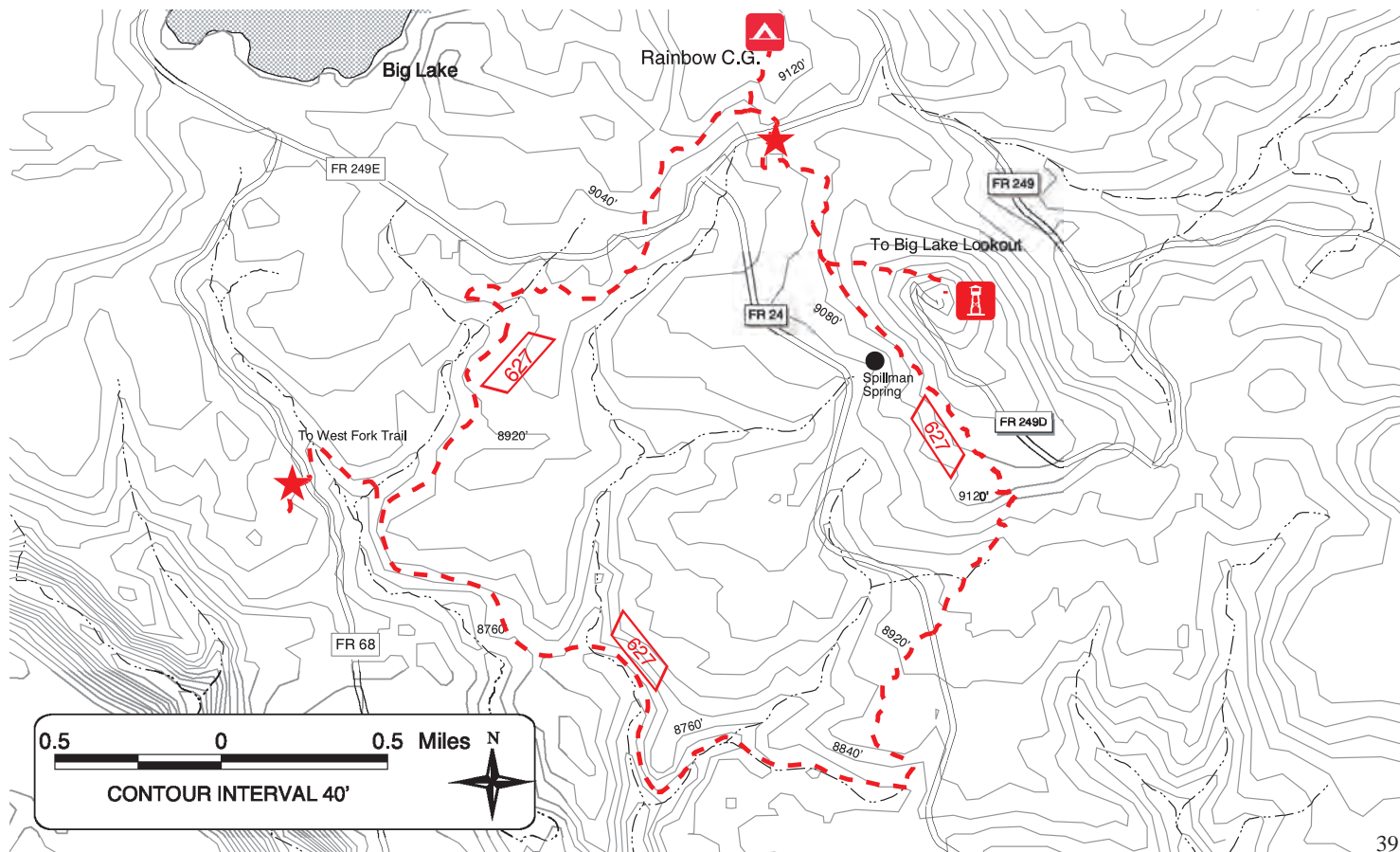
USGS Topo Maps: Big Lake South



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 2.8 miles to AZ Highway 261. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 261 for 16.3 miles to AZ Highway 273 and turn left and travel 2.8 miles to FR 249E. Turn right on FR 249E and the trailhead is .3 mile on the left.

Trail Description: The trail is wide and graveled since part of the trail is the remnant of the Apache Railway Company's Maverick Line. The spur to Big Lake Lookout and West Fork Trail is one-half mile each. Look for the historic troughs by Spillman Springs. This trail is closed to horseback riding.





Big Lake Nature Trail • 603



40

Distance: .5 mile

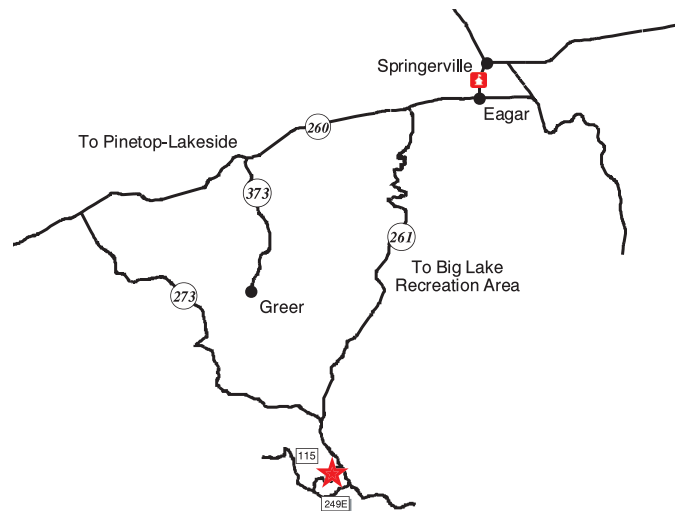
Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate

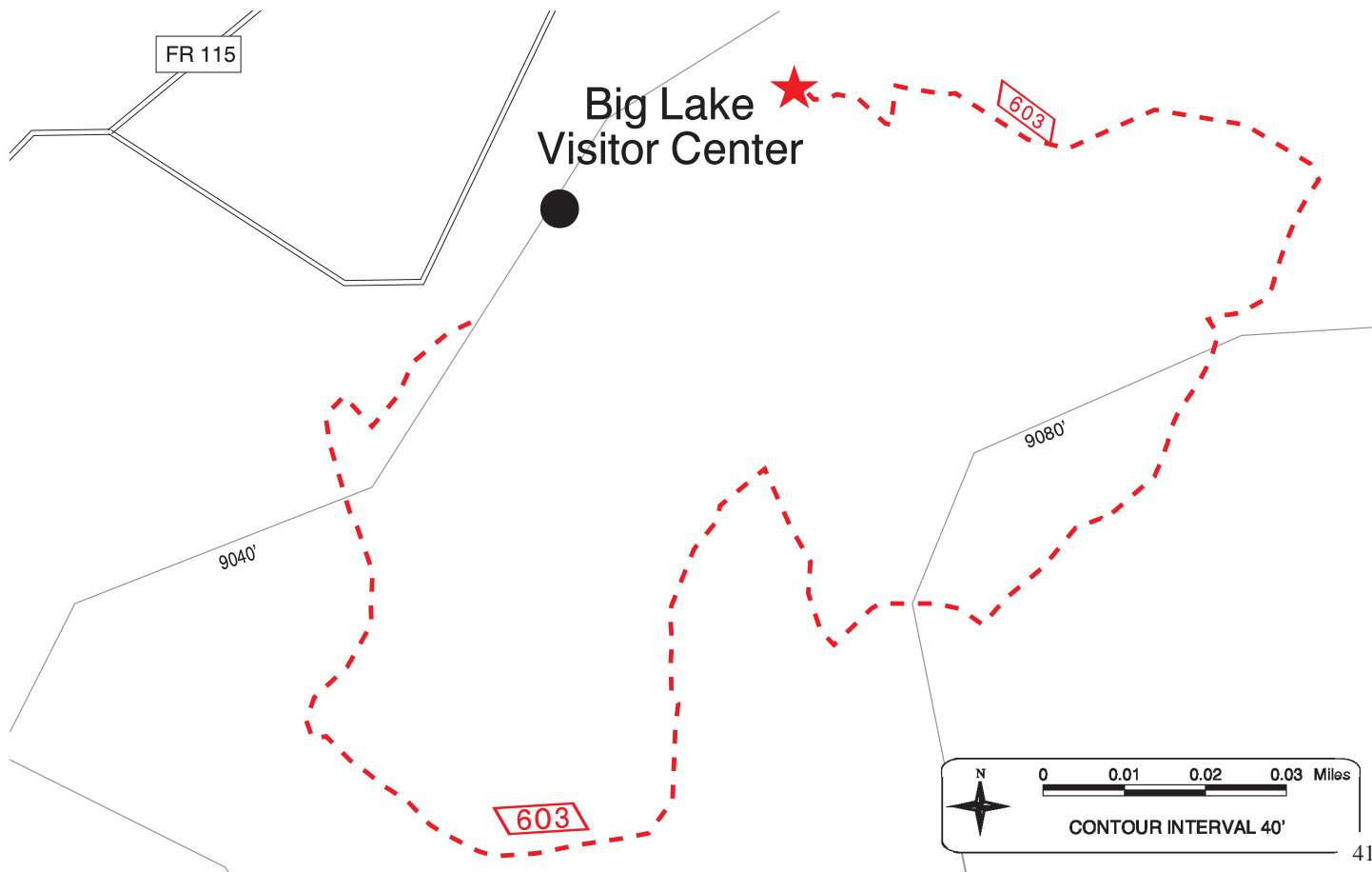
Trailhead Parking: Limited

USGS Topo Maps: Big Lake North

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 2.8 miles to AZ Highway 261. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 261 for 16.3 miles to AZ Highway 273. Turn left for 2.2 miles to the Big Lake turnoff (FR 115). Turn right on FR 115 and travel a half mile. The visitor center is on the left. The trail starts there.

Trail Description: Big Lake Nature Trail is a self-guided trail. Pamphlets are available at the Big Lake Visitor Center. Many wonders of nature can be viewed in a short walk, making it a great place to take the family and view nature at its best. The first 300 feet of the trail is at a 10 to 15 percent grade. The last 100 feet of the trail goes through rock outcropping with some steep steps.





South Fork Trail • 97



42

Distance: 6 miles

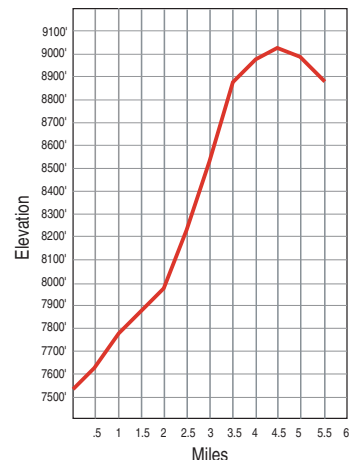
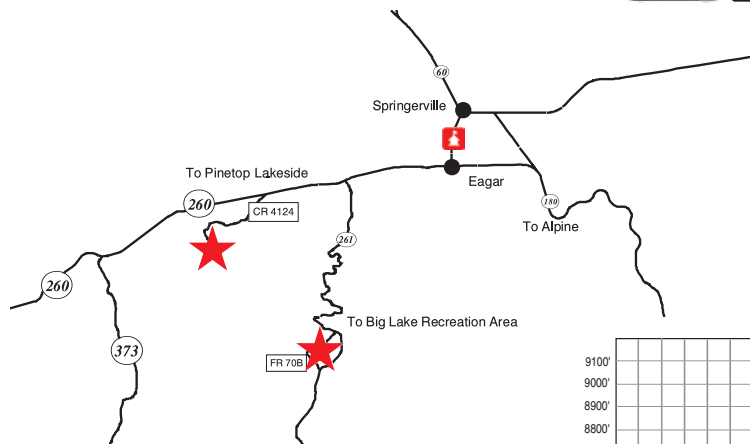
Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate
Mountain Biking — Moderate
Equestrian — Moderate

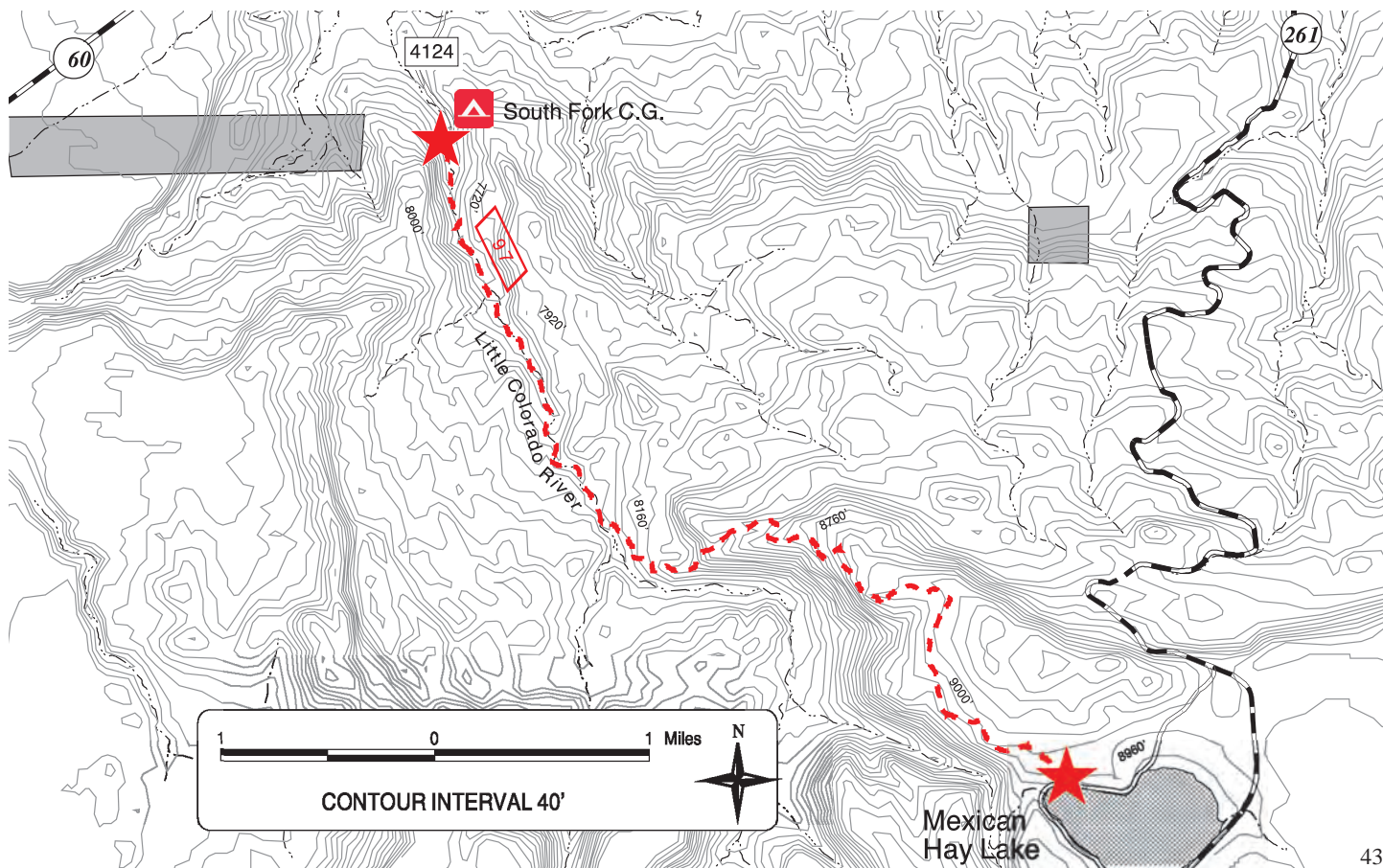
Trailhead Parking: Limited, No Trailers
(3 cars)

USGS Topo Maps: Greer
Eagar

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 5 miles to CR 4124. Turn left (south) on CR 4124 for 2.4 miles. Once in South Fork Campground, turn right across the bridge. The trailhead is at the far end of the campground. Additional parking is off AZ Highway 261 at milepost 405.2 on FR 70B. This road is not maintained and may not be accessible for all vehicles.

Trail Description: The trail's northern portion follows the South Fork of the Little Colorado River for 2 miles. Several grassy meadows open up the scenery offering a change from the steep-sided canyon that dominates most of the lower trail. Mt. Baldy and Greens Peak can be viewed from the benches on the upper portion of the trail.





Saffel Canyon OHV Trail • 606



44

Distance: 25 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

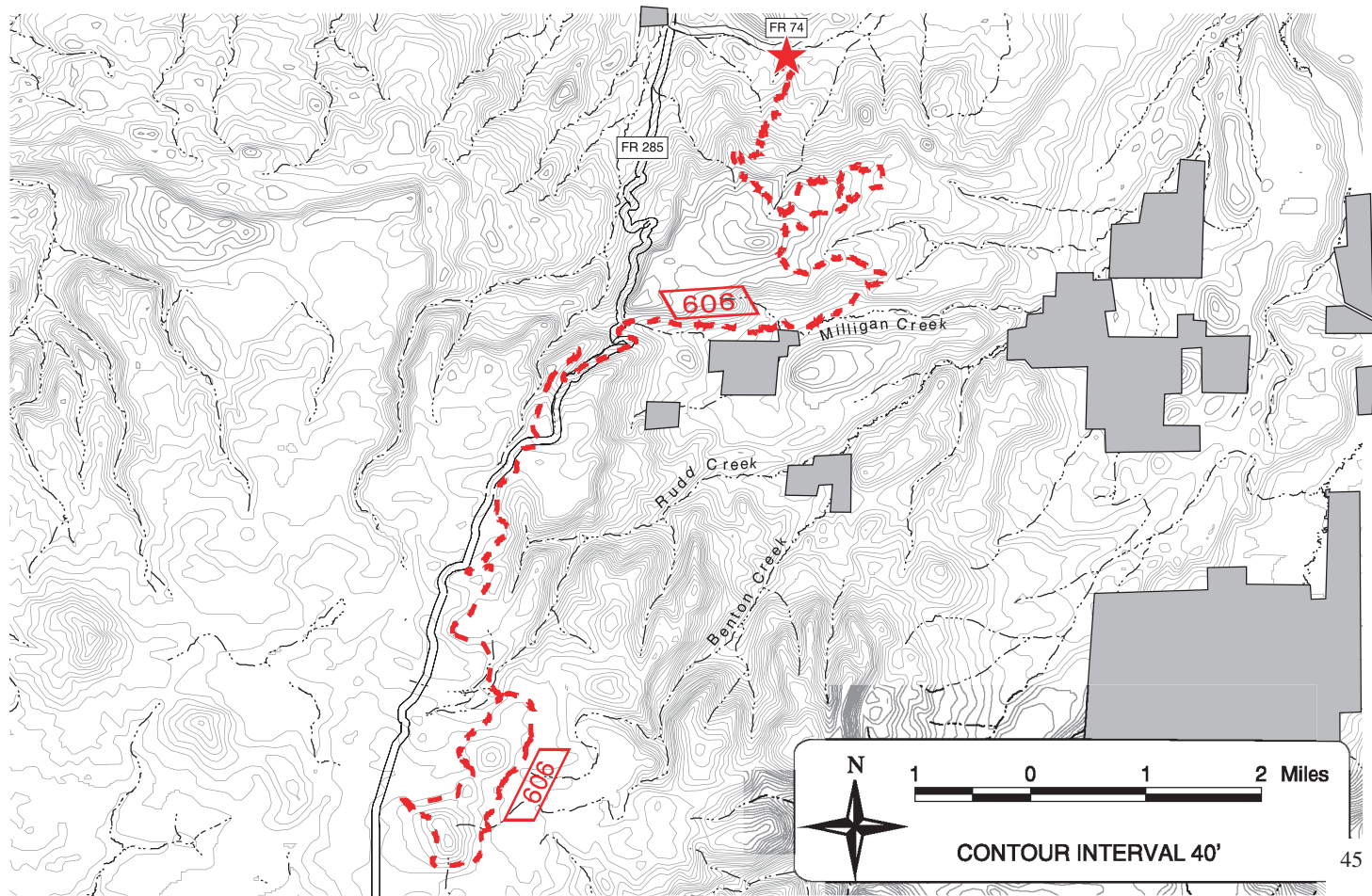
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

USGS Topo Maps: Eagar
Rudd Knoll

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel south on Mountain Avenue for 1 mile. Turn right (west) on Schoolbus Road for .1 mile. Turn left (south) on Water Canyon Road (FR 285) for 1.8 miles. Turn left (east) on FR 74 for .9 mile. Turn right (south) on FR 74D. The trailhead is on the right.

Trail Highlights: Saffel Canyon OHV Trail includes some of the most spectacular views in the White Mountains. The trail begins at an elevation of 7,600 feet at Saffel Canyon and climbs to 9,400 feet at Pat Knoll. The trail goes through three distinct vegetation zones: piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and mixed conifer.





Murray Basin Trail System • 607



46

Distance: 18 miles for all trails

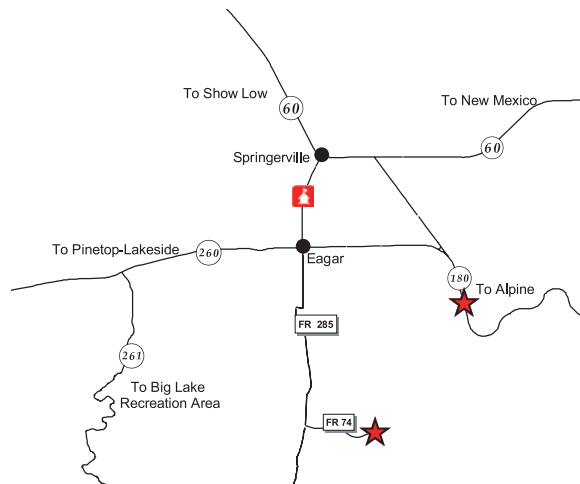
Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate, with some strenuous sections
Mountain Biking — Moderate, with some strenuous sections
Equestrian — Moderate

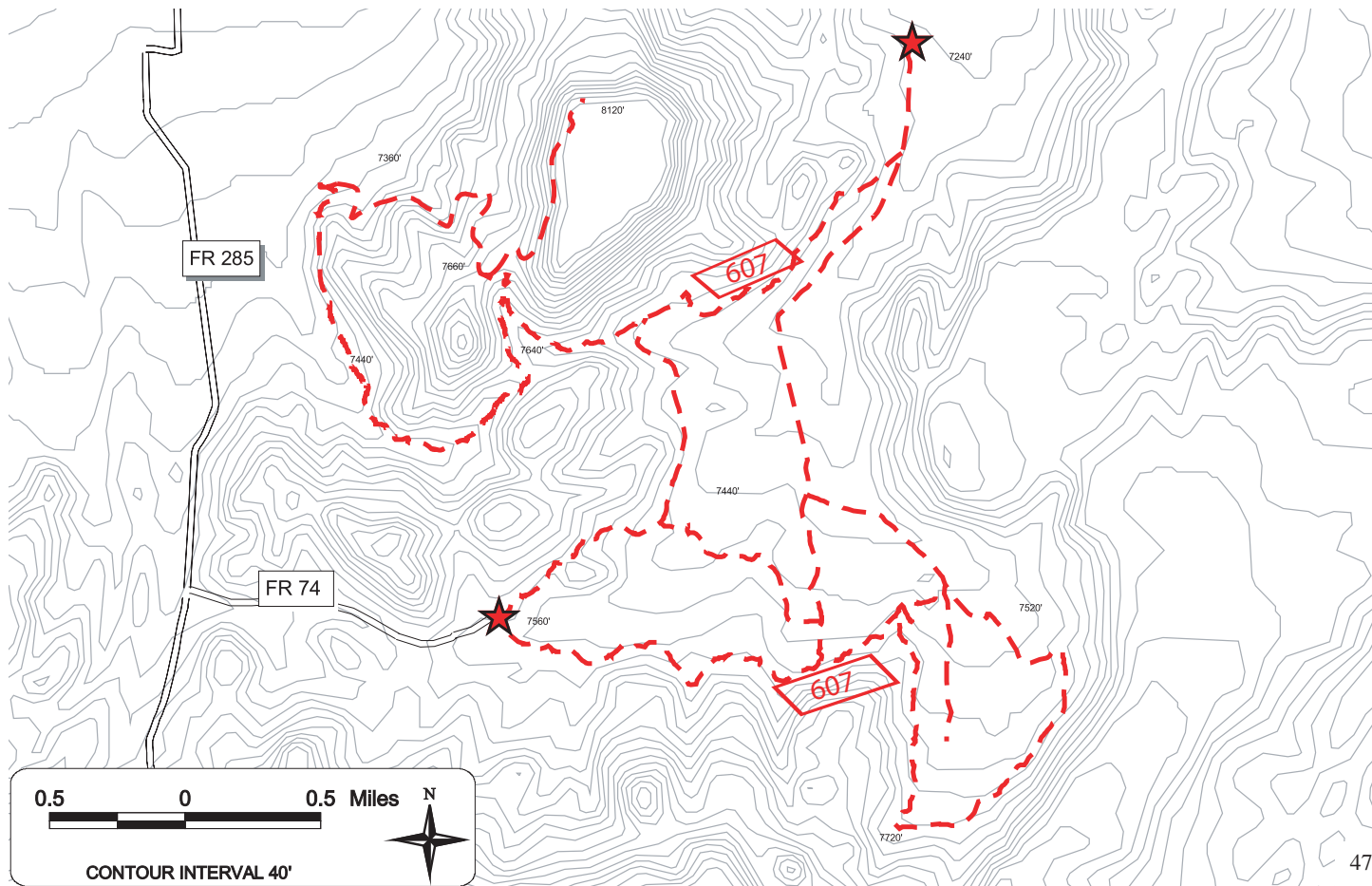
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

USGS Topo Maps: Eagar
Nelson Reservoir

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel east on AZ Highway 260/180 for 3.4 miles. The trailhead is on the right.

Trail Description: The trail system consists of 10 separate trails, each offering a different challenge and experience. The trails are in piñon-juniper woodland and open meadow. Elevation ranges from 7,200 feet to 8,100 feet. Flat Top Mountain offers views of Springerville/Eagar, the volcanic cinder cones, and the Little Colorado River. Several historical sites, such as a cemetery and cabin ruins, are located along the trail.





Overland Trail • 615



48

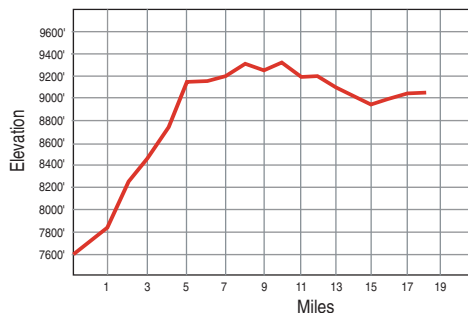
Distance: 19 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Moderate, with some strenuous sections
Mountain Biking — Moderate, with some strenuous sections
Equestrian — Moderate

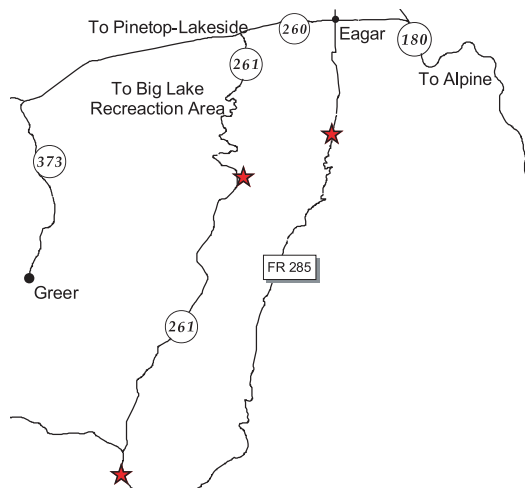
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

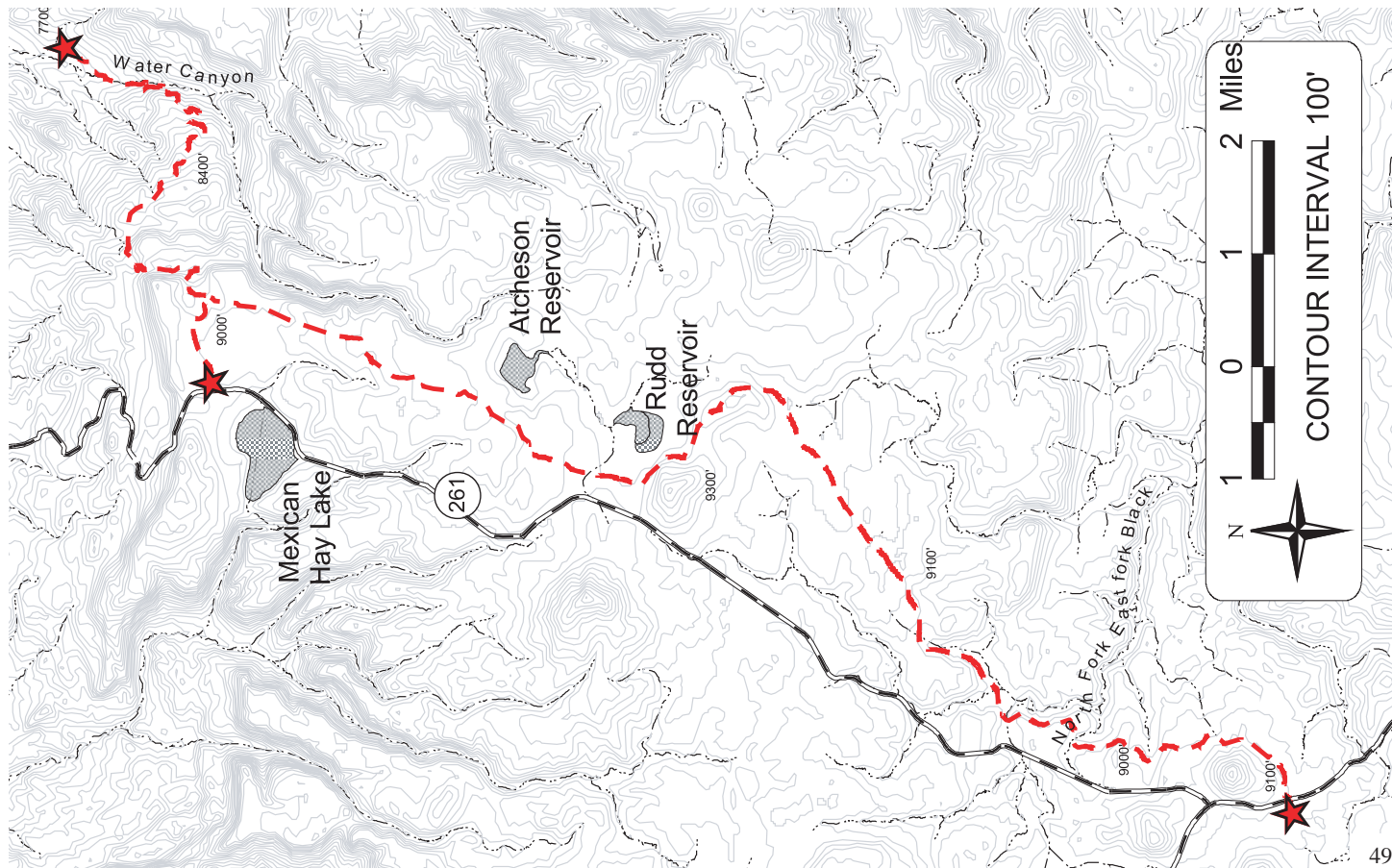
USGS Topo Maps: Eagar
Nelson Reservoir

Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel south on Mountain Avenue for 1 mile. Turn right (west) on School Bus Road for 0.1 mile. Turn left (south) on Water Canyon Road (FR 285) for 2.9 miles. The trailhead is on the right.



Trail Description: The first 5 miles of the trail are strenuous—climbing about 1,500 feet—whereas the remainder of the trail is a moderate degree of difficulty. You will enjoy a wide range of views as the trail travels through piñon-juniper, ponderosa pine, spruce/fir, aspen, and high elevation meadows. This trail is an excellent opportunity to view your favorite wildlife. The trail crosses Water Canyon Creek and the North Fork of the East Fork of the Black River.





Apache Vista Trail • 617



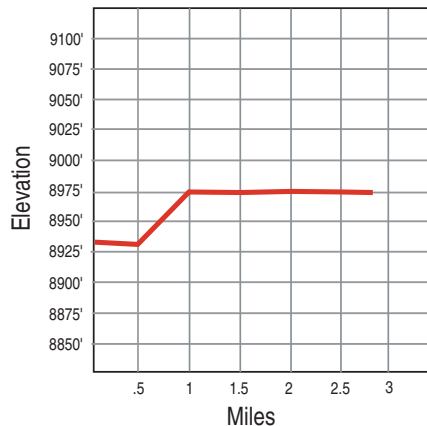
50

Distance: 2.6 miles

Difficulty: Hiking — Easy to moderate
Mountain Biking — Easy to moderate

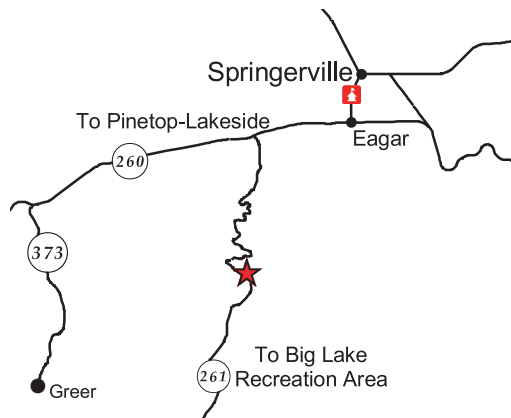
Trailhead Parking: Accommodates Trailers

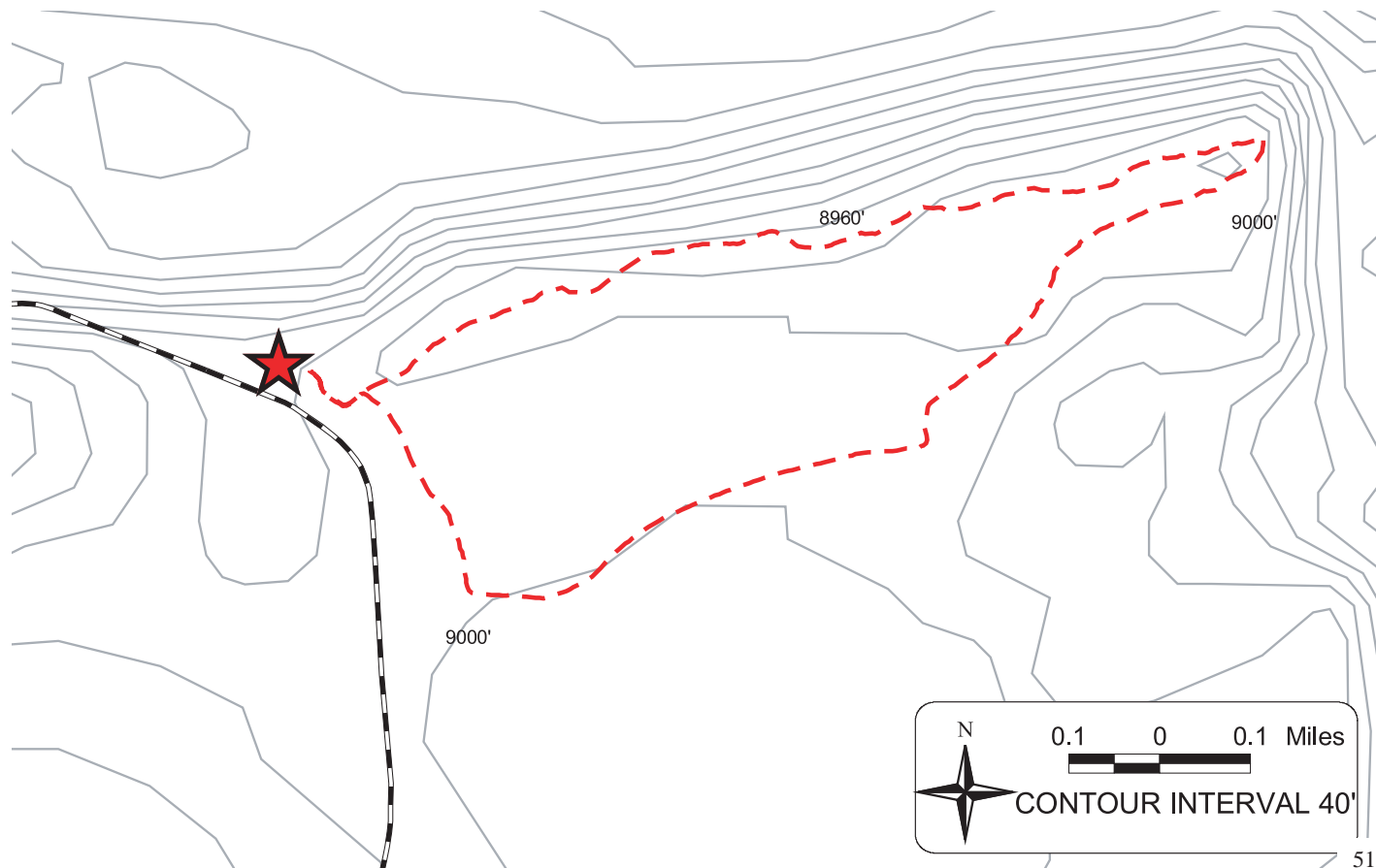
USGS Topo Maps: Eagar



Trail Access: From the Eagar stoplight, travel west on AZ Highway 260 for 2.8 miles to AZ Highway 261. Turn left (south) on AZ Highway 261 for 7.2 miles. The trailhead is on the left.

Trail Description: If you want a short hike to stretch your legs, here's the trail for you. The trail travels primarily in open grassland, with a short section in ponderosa pine. Glimpses of Springerville/Eagar can be seen from the trail. Although the trail has very little elevation change, portions are rocky creating a more challenging experience. Horses are not allowed on this trail.







On Saffel Canyon OHV Trail looking east toward Escudilla Mountain.

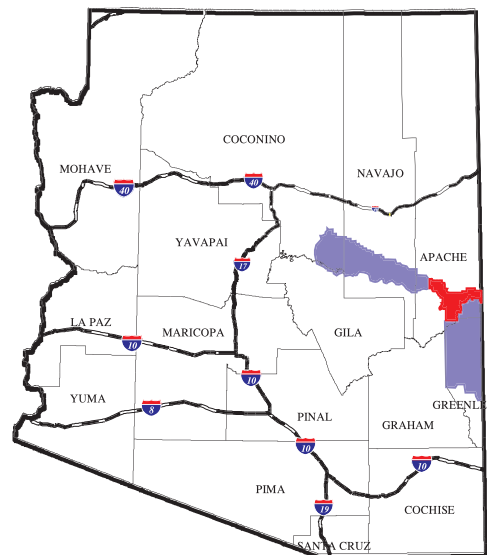
Notes

For More Information . . .

about Springerville Ranger District trails and other recreation opportunities on National Forest System lands, contact:

Springerville Ranger District
P.O. Box 760
165 South Mountain Avenue
Springerville, AZ 85938
Voice: (928) 333-6200
TTY: (928) 333-5397

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
Supervisor's Office
30 South Chiricahua Drive
P.O. Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938
Voice: (928) 333-4301
TTY: (928) 333-6292



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